

THE TIMES Tomorrow

It's always raining, the clubhouse is rotten and usually no more than five of the players turn up. Alan Franks, dropped from the team, watches the sidelines of the Modern Times cinema tomorrow as the Old Boys play football, delving into the world of Howard Raggion, legendary captain of the Old Beltinghamians - bottom of the Derwent league and without a win in 10 seasons.

On the Books Page, Michael Ratcliffe reviews Roussau as a young man, Fiona MacCarthy looks at women's bodies, Nicholas Shakespeare considers first novels and Brian Alderson examines children's picture books.

Garwick Airport: An eight-page Special Report looks at London's second airport.

US orders Cubans to leave

Two members of Cuba's mission to the United Nations were ordered to leave the United States after being accused of "hostile intelligence activities" in the New York area.

Senior Rolando Sahup-Canto, a third secretary, and Senior Joaquin Rodolfo Pantoja-Cejas, an attaché, were given 24 hours to contest the expulsion order.

Benn's battles in three areas

Mr Wedgwood Benn's search for a new parliamentary seat will spread over three Bristol constituencies next month. After his expected failure in Bristol, South, he will face selection fights in Bristol, East, and Kingswood.

Papusoio to go

Mr Stancu Papusoio, the Romanian whose deportation from Britain last month led to widespread protests, has been ordered to leave Austria.

No appeal

The Court of Appeal refused leave for Paul Vickers, the surgeon who "poisoned" his disabled and mentally ill wife, to appeal against his conviction in November, 1981, for murder.

Kremlin conflict

Reports circulating in Moscow that factional struggles are persisting in the Kremlin have been reinforced by the failure of Mr Konstantin Chernenko, secretary of the Communist Party's Central Committee, to attend a key Politburo meeting.

Fire verdict

A verdict of manslaughter was recorded on a brother-in-law of Mr Michael Foot, Mr James Cochrane-Haigh, aged 74, who died after a fire at his Devon farmhouse.

'Scrap BNO'

Eso has called for the abolition of the state-owned British National Oil Corporation and BP and Shell favour a review of its role as North Sea oil price-setter.

Petrol doubt

American experience suggested that many motorists would be unhappy with unleaded low-octane petrol, a leading supplier of lead additives said, announcing it would continue to oppose the proposed ban.

Aberdeen final

Aberdeen reached the final of the European Cup Winners' Cup in Glasgow next month, despite losing 1-0 to Waterscheide in their semi-final second leg match in Belgium last night. Aberdeen won the first leg 5-1.

Special Reports today take a look at the world tea industry and report on the mood in Hongkong as Britain and China discuss the colony's future.

Leader page 15
Letters: On BL, from Mr G H B Cantell; Services and unemployment, from Mr K D Jamieson, and others.
Leading articles: After the Beirut bomb; resumption of Madrid conference; TUC and Labour Party.
Features, pages 12, 13, 14
Why servicemen should be allowed to sue; Bernard Levin makes a telephone prayer; no carve-up for the SDP. Wednesday page: the foxhunting who begged a Tory; keeping cancer in perspective.
Obituary, page 16
Mr Jamie Page:

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British Steel cash 'to modernize' US mills

By Bailey Morris and Edward Townsend

British money would be used to modernize ageing American plants as part of a proposed joint venture with the British Steel Corporation. Congressional investigators were told by US Steel's chairman yesterday.

Mr David Roderick urged Congressmen to support the controversial venture which he said was in the vital interest of both companies.

"British Steel needs a market and can invest in a mill to ensure one. US Steel needs capital - both up front and from joint venture profits - to modernize our steelmaking and finishing facilities at our plants across the country," Mr Roderick said.

He disclosed that the first \$400m (£256m) in profits earned from the proposed joint venture would be used to refurbish the 20-year-old Fairless steel works near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In addition, part of the capital arranged by British Steel would be used to modernize other out-dated US Steel plants.

Last night, BSC continued the silence it has so far maintained over the proposed deal. Despite considerable publicity in recent weeks, the corporation has not even admitted that it has been in discussion with US Steel.

At the end of last month, Mr Ian MacGregor, BSC chairman, said that premature leaks had jeopardized the chances of success of such a project and the BSC's competitors were "waiting in the wings" to take over the deal.

The scheme could lead to up to half of the 4,000 workers at BSC's Ravenscraig steel plant in Lanarkshire losing their jobs and as many as 3,000 at Fairless. United Kingdom steel industry leaders have opposed the deal but Mr MacGregor has told ministers that a drastic cutback at Ravenscraig is the only way to give it a chance of becoming profitable.

Continued on back page, col 4

American duo likely to win Sotheby's

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

Mr Marshall Cogan and Mr Stephen Swid, the American duo bidding for Sotheby's, the auctioneers, are likely to win control unless a higher bid is made in the next two weeks.

Mr Gordon Brunton, the chairman of Sotheby's, said yesterday that he had also heard that the Americans now owned 50 per cent of the company. This was denied, however, by Mr Swid, a director of the American company General Felt Industries/Knoll International. "We are not saying that we have a majority of the stock, but we do expect that by May 4 we will own over 50 per cent."

The confusion seems to have arisen because under takeover rules in Britain and America, Mr Swid is not yet allowed to buy the necessary shares although he expects to have arranged the legal clearances by early May.

However, there is nothing to prevent the owners of Sotheby's shares giving Mr Swid an unofficial "yes" to his offer. Since more than half of Sotheby's shares appear to be now held by Americans it is likely that this will happen.

Mr Swid is therefore confident that his bid will succeed, provided no other party comes in and offers the shareholders a more lucrative alternative. Mr Marshall Cogan, Mr Swid's partner, appears to have made this plain in telephone conver-



Mr Cogan and Mr Swid

sations that he has had in recent days with some of the Sotheby's staff.

Their success rate on contacting staff seems however, to remain low. "Marshall has had a meeting with one and I have spoken at length for half an hour, with one gentleman," Mr Swid said. He also claims that some experts on both sides of the Atlantic have rung them but declines to give names. In making the calls the experts were "risky negative peer reaction," he explained.

In London, Mr Brunton denies the Americans' allegation that he has made any move to "ban" contacts with Sotheby's staff. He had asked the staff at the beginning of the year whether they wished for a meeting with Mr Cogan and Mr Swid and more than 40 had declined. But no pressure had been brought to bear on any individual.

Mr Brunton says that Sotheby's formal defence document will be ready at the beginning of next week. Meanwhile, he strongly suggests that a rival bidder is still a possibility.

The 'Famous Five' are reduced to three



Ousted: Anna Ford at home with her daughter Clare after being told of her dismissal.

Ford and Rippon swept out by new broom

By John Witherow

The "Famous Five" of TV-am's commercial breakfast television show became the "Famous Three" yesterday with the dismissal of two of the star presenters, Anna Ford and Angela Rippon. The move came a week after the appointment of Mr Timothy Aitken as chief executive and is seen as part of a determined bid to reverse the decline in ratings and confidence in the company.

Miss Ford yesterday morning was handed a letter stating she had been dismissed. "It said my contract had been terminated for a particular reason and I've given it to my solicitor to see what he says," Miss Ford, who is 39, said. Miss Rippon was called in soon afterwards and was also dismissed.

Although Miss Ford refused to give details, TV-am employees said the women were dismissed for talking to the press after the removal of Mr Peter Jay as chief executive. Both appeared outside the company's Camden Lock studios in north London carrying placards in support of Mr Jay.

Mr Michael Parkinson, who with his wife Mary, hosts the weekend *Good Morning Britain* show, said last night that Miss Ford and Miss Rippon had been "lously and shabbily treated" and that he was reconsidering his own future with the company.

"I've been reconsidering my future since Peter Jay was sacked," he said. "It's not the company we put together and I think there were ways of handling the situation better. I'm very upset and bitter. The company we formed has gone. We lost. It's a question of

do I want to play with the new team?"

Mr Parkinson said he had seen Miss Ford after her dismissal and she "looked terribly white. All she said was: 'I've been sacked.' They were called in like in front of a headmaster. Surely we are all too grown up for that? I'm just baffled, mystified, I can't see the sense of it."

"How can you sack people for things they said in a time of extreme stress and emotion? Anyway, it's absurd for anyone not to have their own opinion. I'm not supposed to be speaking to the press and that's what they were sacked for. I don't think the situation can get any worse. You don't solve your problems by getting rid of two of the star players."

Miss Ford, speaking at her home in Brentford, Middlesex, while holding her 15-month-old daughter Clare, said: "I feel shocked. It was somewhat unexpected. I am officially on holiday and was not due to start work again until June."

She added that she had a two-year contract with the company and it seemed that the company had now broken it. Asked about her 2.5 per cent shareholding, she replied: "I don't know what will happen to that. It's an interesting point."

Miss Ford and Miss Rippon were reputed to be earning nearly £70,000 a year each.

Mr Robert Kee, who recently transferred from being a presenter to conducting interviews, said last night: "I can't discuss the internal affairs of the company, as it says in my contract."

Continued on back page, col 5

Maggie May or may not choose June

By Julian Haviland and Anthony Bevins

The Prime Minister last night continued her tantalizing tease about the timing of the next election, with a reference to the song Maggie May.

She told the annual dinner of the Confederation of British Industry, at the Hilton Hotel in London, that some people were talking of the end of the Parliament, "a little prematurely, I think."

"It reminds me of the old song 'Maggie May'. Some say Maggie may, others say Maggie may not. I can only say that when the time comes, I shall decide."

But Mrs Thatcher then added: "Right now, I am more concerned with the job in hand."

She also gave a measure of her own plans when she revealed that she would be looking for a young school-leaver to join the staff of 10 Downing Street under the Youth Training Scheme.

"I hope that he or she will receive a good grounding during the year with us. Perhaps one day, who knows, the training in No 10 will be of use in applying for my job, in the next century!"

Mrs Thatcher said the Government had laid the foundations for recovery with cuts in taxation; with a £2,000m reduction in the national insurance surcharge, and equally important reductions in personal taxes.

But she also stressed that there was another, unseen tax: inflation. "Yes, inflation is a tax, and a savage and capricious one which Government's im-

Rank Xerox to cut 1,100 more jobs

The Rank Xerox company has announced it will be axing a further 1,100 jobs from its plant in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire over the next two years. The company, which produces copying machines at the Mitcheldean factory, last month said 500 jobs would have to go by the end of June.

Yesterday's announcement followed speculation that the Gloucestershire plant would be closed completely but Mr Dick Holmes, the European director, who carries out union representatives to tell them of the news, said this was not the case.

"Instead, the work force will be reduced from the present 2,700 to just over 1,000 by the end of 1984. It is a regrettable decision brought about by technical advancement and the need to remain competitive in a keen world market," he said.

"It is a disastrous blow to jobs in an area which already has a high unemployment level of 14 per cent."

Thousands of jobs are expected to disappear over the next four years in a radical reorganization of Central Electricity Generating Board management. It was disclosed yesterday. Those affected in the £5,000-strong industry are office staff and highly-qualified engineers and scientists. Under the proposed scheme, the board's regional headquarters at Bristol; Stockport; Greater Manchester; Harrogate, North Yorkshire; Solihull, West Midlands; and Bankside in London are to be wound down.

BL hope of deal by Friday

By Clifford Webb

There was guarded optimism on both sides last night that although hard bargaining still lay ahead, the three-week strike at BL's Cowley assembly plant could end on Friday, when the men hold their next mass meeting.

National officers of the two main unions involved met local officials and shop stewards yesterday to discuss the result of seven hours of talks on Monday between union leaders and management. Mr Harold Musgrove, chairman of Austin Rover, has said the company will not drop its plans to end

early leaving, but offered to increase bonus earnings on the day the men accept "bell to bell" working. He set a deadline of May 16 for that to begin.

A mass meeting of 1,200 of the 5,000 on strike voted by a large majority yesterday to stay out while negotiations were making place and to meet on Friday.

Cowley is one of the few plants remaining in Austin Rover which does not have Audited Plants Status (APS), a formula linking payments to international standards of efficiency. As a result, Cowley's bonus ceiling is only £18.75 a

week compared with £30 at Longbridge.

One of the main obstacles to the introduction of APS at Cowley has been the tradition of leaving three minutes early, which the company says costs it 100 cars a week, worth £50m a year. APS would be introduced on May 16 if the men accepted the deal. The intention is to increase production of the new Maestro from 2,200 a week to 2,750.

The stewards would still like to see a direct lump sum "buy out" of early leaving.

James Curran, page 14
Letters, page 15

Death toll grows as rescuers comb Beirut wreckage

From Robert Fisk
Beirut

Red Cross workers digging through the ruins of the American Embassy in Beirut broke through to the crushed cafeteria section of the building yesterday afternoon and found another five bodies embedded in the masonry, bringing the total number of dead in Monday's bombing to forty-seven - and with the prospect of even this grim figure moving far higher.

The latest bodies to be recovered were taken from the rubble in white plastic bags and carried to a tent where relatives of those still missing were waiting in misery to identify the dead.

They knew what they would have to see because, as Mr Robert Dillon, the American Ambassador, announced bleakly during the morning, the Red

Cross thought it very unlikely that anyone would still be found alive.

The embassy was crowded with visitors and cleaning staff as well as diplomatic personnel when the bomb exploded at lunchtime, so neither the Americans nor the Lebanese police authorities know exactly how many people were in the building at the time - nor how many dead are still to be discovered.

In the hours after the assault on the embassy, diplomats from countries which are also contributing troops to the multinational peace keeping force in Beirut - including the British - have been trying to work out new security procedures that might prevent the same fate befalling their own compounds.

British officials in Lebanon will not disclose what measures they are planning, although the



Mr John Reid, embassy press officer: Hurt in blast.

British Embassy - like its American opposite number - stands unpleasantly exposed on the Mediterranean Boulevard in

West Beirut, flanked by a small but busy roadway.

Although cars are not permitted to park outside the four-storey building, only one Lebanese policeman, with an automatic rifle, stands guard outside - he can scarcely offer much protection against the sort of determined men who slaughtered so many people just down the same road on Monday.

Mr Dillon was more forthcoming about them yesterday, saying that while he was still unsure of the facts, there were eyewitness reports that a large van filled with explosives forced its way into the forecourt of the Embassy, "two competent witnesses," he said, "saw a very heavily-loaded van force its way in. How it was detonated, I don't know."

Two Lebanese men have told the Beirut police authorities that they saw a man in a black

leather jacket drive the van into the northern end of the embassy driveway, apparently detonating the explosives and killing himself at the same time, although the Americans have not yet subscribed to the theory that the killer was on a suicidal mission.

Lebanese and American bomb disposal officers believe that as much as 500lb of hexogene - four times as powerful as TNT - was set off.

Of the 47 dead, 16 are believed to be Americans.

A Briton was among those killed in the bombing. He was Sergeant Richard Twine, aged 36, who had served in the American Army for the past 18 years and who was due to be demobbed in two years, the Press Association reports.

Stabbera Israelis, page 6
Leading article, page 13

Don't worry about your HEARING!

Literally thousands of people who are not really deaf but who strain to hear clearly are using a new tiny clarifier with no strings or wires attached. It's specially designed to help with the problem of hearing clearly and sharply, and it's available from a company called Hidden Hearing who specialise in the world's latest hearing devices. Sheila Ingram, the Marketing Director of this company says "People with a slight hearing problem don't always need traditional hearing aids. Modern science has given most people the right to clear hearing in a completely inconspicuous form and the public should know about it." If you, like so many other people today, can hear sounds (sometimes only too well!), but have difficulty in understanding every word - particularly in crowds or group conversations, or when watching TV, you should telephone or fill in the coupon below.

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Surgeon who poisoned his wife told case against him was 'overwhelming'

By David Nicholson-Lord

A surgeon who poisoned his disabled mentally ill wife with a rare cancer drug known as CCNU was yesterday told his conviction for murder.

The case against Paul Vickers, aged 48 and formerly head of the accident department at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead, was "overwhelming", Lord Justice Lawton said at the Court of Appeal.

"It was about as strong a case of poisoning as I can remember in a long period in the law", the judge added.

At Teesside Crown Court in November, 1981, Vickers, of Moor Crescent, Gosforth, was sentenced to life imprisonment, with a recommendation that he serve a minimum term of 17 years. Grounds for appeal included alleged defects in the trial judge's summing-up.

Lord Justice Lawton praised the summing-up of Mr Justice Boreham, the trial judge, as a masterpiece in an exceedingly

difficult case. The judge made one slip in overstating a piece of medical evidence against Vickers, but it was not significant.

"Right from the very beginning Vickers had behaved as no responsible medical practitioner could conceivably have behaved", Lord Justice Lawton added. "He must have known this drug was dangerous but he administered it, hiding it from his professional colleagues."

"He took none of the special precautions and he did his best to hide the fact that this drug had anything to do with his wife by putting false names on the prescriptions he wrote out."

An application to call evidence from three *News of the World* reporters over a newspaper article on Miss Pamela Collinson, Vickers' codefendant, was rejected. Lord Justice Lawton said quotations by Miss Collinson contradicted an unsworn statement she made from the dock but the newspaper account was "rubbish" and of no value as evidence.

Miss Collinson, aged 35, had an affair with Vickers and was alleged to have tried to blackmail him into marriage by taking photographs of prescriptions. She was acquitted of murder but received a six-month suspended prison sentence for dishonestly obtaining CCNU.

Lord Justice Lawton said Miss Collinson was kept "under wraps" by the journalists for two weeks and questioned for hours after her arrest. "If she had been treated by the police as she was treated by the press, what value would the evidence have been?", he asked.

Mr Gilbert Gray, QC, for Vickers, applied for the admission of evidence of a knife attack by Miss Collinson on another woman in a demonstration, he said, that she was not a "sweet, naive, innocent girl".

The Court of Appeal rejected that on the ground that it was too remote from the case.



Sir Anthony Jolliffe, the Lord Mayor of London entertained to lunch at Guildhall yesterday Major John Qain and Lance Corporal Michael Rowley, of 33 Engineer Regiment, who made safe the Second World War bomb found in the Thames on April 11 (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

Legal doubt on 'womb leasing'

By Frances Gibb

Legal Affairs Correspondent

Womb leasing, the practice of a woman bearing a child for another in return for payment, was condemned as undesirable by the Law Society yesterday.

In its evidence to the Warnock inquiry on human fertilisation and embryology, it proposed it should be a criminal offence for a woman to offer the reward to bear a child for another, and for anyone to offer such reward or act as an agent.

Any contract for the natural insemination by a man of a woman, intending later adoption of the child by a couple including one of the natural parents, was almost certainly illegal, the society claimed. It could be enforceable because contracts for sexual intercourse were against public policy.

A paper by the society's family law committee also says that artificial insemination to allow couples to give birth to their children should be permitted only for husbands and wives, or couples living together.

The society says that with the increasing use of artificial insemination (AID), there is a danger of genetic incest.

"Where doctors or others offer artificial insemination on a large scale with semen of concealed or unidentified origin, the prospects of half-brothers and sisters meeting and mating increase almost exponentially."

To deal with that the use of AID and children resulting from it could be recorded, birth certificates being coded with a letter.

Genetic engineering, to artificially create children by such processes as *in vitro* fertilisation (test tube babies) should be allowed where it was in the interests of the future child. The same applied to associated research.

Experiments involving the use of human genetic material, in particular cloning experiments, should be forbidden. These did not appear to have any proper role in human affairs.

Jail threat over tree felling

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Mr Hugh Batchelor, a Kent farmer, was yesterday given a six-month suspended jail sentence for defying a High Court injunction not to cut down trees on his estate at Hollingbourne.

Mr Justice Hodgson said the court took the gravest possible view of the fact that its authority had been so flagrantly disobeyed. He warned Mr Batchelor that if he ever broke his undertaking to respect all preservation orders by so much as a single hack on a tree, he would inevitably go to prison.

Mr George Newman, QC, for Mr Batchelor, said the changing of the prison doors during the 14 days which his client spent in Pentonville earlier this month had had a marked effect on his attitude as to the seriousness, gravity and regard he must show for court orders in future.

Mr Michael Gale, QC, for Maidstone district council, told the court that on February 17 this year it had come to the council's attention that the defendant had bought the Howe Court estate. He was said to have paid about £1m for the 940 acres.

The ancient Pilgrims' Way runs across the estate. The trees which had been destroyed had previously formed part of the view for people walking along both the Pilgrims' Way and the North Downs Way, and the landscape had been designated

an area of outstanding natural beauty.

The defendant was known to be a devotee of modern intensive farming methods which involved creating vast fields without any trees or hedgerows. In the light of that knowledge the council had very rapidly made a number of tree preservation orders under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1971.

The first order had been issued on February 21 and others had followed on February 23 and 24. On February 24 it was observed that Mr Batchelor had started felling the trees, and the council immediately

applied for and received an ex-parte injunction.

There was no doubt that at this stage Mr Batchelor was fully aware of the orders and of the area covered by the terms of the injunction. Yet in spite of undertaking given through his solicitor, further breaches of the injunction promptly occurred.

Witnesses confirmed that a number of trees which were still standing on February 24 had all gone by March 2. In these circumstances the council sent the defendant a letter notifying him that he was in contempt of court and that it intended to apply for a committal order.

After further breaches of the injunction, Mr Justice Drake committed the defendant to prison for 20 days on March 30. He was released with remission after serving 14 days.

The main concern of the council was to prevent further breaches of the preservation orders, Mr Gale said. It was therefore content that any further sentence should be suspended.

During the hearing, supporters of Friends of the Earth demonstrated outside the court buildings. Afterwards Mr Steve Bilcliffe, the group's director, described the decision as a landmark in conservation law, and the first time to his knowledge that legislation governing tree preservation had been enforced to the hilt.

Mr Batchelor: Must not use his axe

Arts Council praise for town centre mosaic

By Christopher Warnock, Arts Correspondent

A mosaic costing £125,000, the largest work of art to be publicly commissioned in Britain this century, was unveiled in the centre of Redditch, Hereford and Worcester, by Sir William Rees-Mogg, chairman of the Arts Council, yesterday.

The 12 mosaic panels which make up the work, each measuring 21ft by 10ft, are by Eduardo Paoletti and were commissioned by the Redditch Development Corporation for the Kingsfisher shopping centre. These are 20ft above ground and line a piazza in the shopping centre.

Sir William said the work, to which the council contributed £7,500, would give enjoyment and interest to countless people for the next 100 years or more. "I hope this will be an example to other public and private bodies."

He called on those contemplating putting up buildings to look to Redditch and Paoletti's work. "I hope it will have a powerful influence in spreading similar work throughout the country."

The campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is to send two observers to the meeting of the Soviet-backed World Peace Council in Prague this summer. The decision is likely to be seen by opponents as evidence of Soviet sympathies within CND.

Mr Bruce Kent, general secretary of CND, said: "We are going into this with our eyes open. We are well aware that some will try and use this as a weapon against us."

The CND representatives, he said, would make their position perfectly clear: that they were only there as observers. They would be making a speech attacking Soviet arms sales to the Third World, on the illusion of nuclear parity and calling for a unilateral cut in the deployment of Soviet SS20 missiles.

It should be recognized that constructive proposals had been made by Eastern block, he said. "We do not want to appear naive, but honesty demands that we communicate where we can."

The decision to send observers, was taken by CND's 120-strong national council at the weekend by a four to three majority, Mr Kent said.

The Ministry of Defence yesterday reacted with caution to the campaign's challenge to distribute government leaflets on cruise, Trident and the nuclear debate with CND's own leaflets on the issues, as part of a "public education" advertising campaign it plans to launch shortly.

A Ministry spokesman said: "We are, of course, keen to encourage informed public debate about nuclear disarmament. But we would want to see exactly what CND proposes to do with our literature before taking a view on whether we would want to allow them to do it."

Walking 'the best way to get to work on time'

If you want to get to work on time, use your feet rather than car or public transport, a survey published today suggests.

It shows that office workers who walk or jog to work are 96 per cent certain not to be late. Those who cycle have 92 per cent chance of reaching work on time. But by using the London Underground the chances drop to 29 per cent, and on British Rail to 28 per cent.

Travelling by bus, car or motor cycle gives a better chance of being on time, but is not as reliable as going on foot.

The survey, conducted by the Alfred Marks Bureau, employment agency, asked 500 office workers how they managed to get to work. It found that the car had overtaken the train as the most popular way.

Most office workers travelled fewer than ten miles to work. In the regions, 84 per cent travelled by car, but in London the underground was still the most popular means of transport, used by 42 per cent. Eight per cent of these questioned went on foot.

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Ice-cream by the sea tops poll

An ice-cream at the seaside still represents the ideal summer day out for British children, according to a survey published yesterday.

Walls, the ice-cream makers, asked more than 1,000 children what food or drink they have on a summer outing. Ice-cream or ice-lollies were the favourite of 55 per cent. Only 12 per cent usually had a hamburger. Even adults rated ice-cream second only to a drink in a public house.

A day trip to the seaside was the most popular summer pastime for adults and children alike.

The Walls survey follows news last week that ice-cream sales in Britain reached a record £370m for 1982, despite previous drops in profits. The children also rated ice-cream the most popular pudding when eating out before games, trifle or strawberries and cream.

Owner of pet calf fined

Aaron Smith, a horse dealer, of Rectory Lane, Banstead, Surrey, was fined £50 by Guildford magistrates yesterday after pleading guilty to transporting a steer in a way likely to cause it injury or unnecessary suffering.

Mr Ian Brewer, prosecuting for the RSPCA, said that a calf bought by Smith as a family pet injured a leg while being driven home from market in his van.

Pensioner hit by police car

An inquest in Liverpool was told yesterday that retired watchman, aged 81, died after being hit by a police car, answering an emergency call which drove through red traffic lights.

The jury returned a verdict of accidental death on Mr Frederick Thomas of Belmont Drive, Newsham Park. No charges will be brought against Constable Anthony Evans, who was driving the car.

Nuclear power plant to open

The £1,000m Heysham 1 nuclear power station in Lancashire will begin operation in the next two weeks. The station, powered by an advanced gas-cooled reactor, is seven years behind schedule.

Mr Alan Finley, National Nuclear Corporation overseas affairs manager, told a British Nuclear Forum conference in Manchester yesterday that design modifications caused delays.

RAF jet crashes

An RAF Jaguar fighter from No 6 Squadron, Coltishall, Norfolk, crashed into the North Sea 30 miles from Cromer yesterday. The pilot ejected safely and was picked up by helicopter.

Tax relief lost after error

Thousands of home owners with bank mortgages are losing tax relief because of an administrative blunder by the Inland Revenue. About 30,000 home owners in Scotland were not included on the mortgage interest relief at source scheme. (Miras) at the beginning of this financial year because of inexperienced staff and lack of supervision at Scotland's main tax office, Centre 1, in East Kilbride.

Those affected have also had loan interest removed from their PAYE code, leaving them thousands of pounds worse off. The Inland Revenue accepts responsibility for the error.

12,500 to run

Glasgow's marathon on September 11 is expected to attract its limit of 12,500 runners, more than double the total in the first run last year.

Child blood pressure 'should be checked'

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Children's blood pressure should be recorded from the time they start school at five years old as regularly as checks of their height, weight, hearing and sight, a heart specialist said yesterday.

Prof Alastair Breckenridge of Liverpool University said that as a preventive measure a routine check on children could be more effective in identifying individuals at risk from a heart attack than the screening of 40 and 50-year-olds.

He said that evidence emerging from research showed that people prone to high blood pressure started veering towards the "high track" as early as the age of two.

The discovery that children divide into "low and high tracks" at such an early age comes from a continuing study begun six years ago of 2,000 babies in the London Borough of Bromley by Dr Elliott Shinebourne of the Brompton Hospital and a local team of doctors, nurses and technicians.

While doctors might suggest straightforward measures, such as changes in diet, to help a child who is seen to have blood

pressure veering on the high side, the research data is not complete enough to devise a national programme of intervention as a preventive measure.

But doctors reviewing advances at a special meeting of the British Heart Foundation, entitled "Five Years Back and Five Years Forward in Cardiovascular Research" regarded this as one of the important advances to come.

Dr Tom Meade, director of the foundation's research group at Northwick Park Hospital, Harrow, was disappointed by the conclusion of an international investigation by the World Health Organisation into the influence of life style on heart attacks. The effects of diet and smoking and regular health checks, had rather less influence on preventing heart diseases than had been hoped.

While it confirmed that factors like a high fat diet could cause heart attacks by producing high fat levels in the blood, the reduction of risk from more prudent diets was not very large.

Drink to blame, Best says

George Best, the footballer, who faces debts of £115,418, admitted in the London Bankruptcy Court yesterday that his downfall was due to drink. "I am an alcoholic and have had a drink problem for 12 years", he said.

Mr John Booth, assistant official receiver, told Mr Best that his income had been spent on gambling, drinking and expensive cars.

Mr Booth criticized Mr Best, the former Manchester United and Northern Ireland international, now with Bourne-mouth, for not producing a "single scrap of paper" about his financial affairs. The inland

Revenue has a claim against Mr Best for £18,686.

Asked why he had not paid his tax debts after receiving £20,000 from a biography written by Michael Parkinson in 1981 entitled *Where Do I Go From Here?* Mr Best replied: "I offered to pay them £10,000, but they refused. I have to live. The money went on supporting my wife and child."

The only asset of Mr Best, aged 37, of Glasgow Road, Uddingston, Glasgow, was said to be £14,000, an interest in a Scottish company.

The public examination was adjourned to July 26.

Penlee inquiry

Controller 'not to blame'

From Our Correspondent, Penzance

Mr Robbie Roberts, coast-guard district controller, was in no way responsible for the loss of the lifeboat, the 1,400-ton coaster *Union Star*, and the 16 people on board the two vessels, Mr Noel Horner told the Penlee lifeboat inquiry in Penzance yesterday.

Mr Horner is representing the Smith and Wallis families, each of which lost a son on the lifeboat. He said he would not proceed with criticisms of Mr Roberts. "We have no evidence. He did his best."

Mr Horner reminded the court that Mr Gerald Darling, QC, for the Department of Trade and Industry, had said that Mr Horner wished to call Mr John Douglas, former chief inspector of coastguards, that the circumstances of his dismissal from the coastguard could not possibly entitle him to be an unbiased witness about the coastguard.

Ex-PC guilty of trying to run down wife

Rodney Kettle, a former policeman, was convicted at Manchester Crown Court yesterday of trying to run down his wife Ann, in a car.

He was remanded in custody for sentence on May 23. Judge Arthur Prest QC ordered that Kettle, who holds commendations for bravery, should undergo psychiatric tests.

The judge said: "It appears that when he was a member of the Royal Artillery he served in Northern Ireland and there was a tragic incident - but there is no reason to suggest he was to blame - when either a sniper or a young child was shot by a gun Kettle held."

Kettle had represented himself, falsely, to be a member of the SAS, suffered from nightmares, attempted to take his own life, and the judge said a report on him concluded that he lived in a fantasy world.



Rodney Kettle: "mad with passion"

Kettle, of St John's Avenue, Warrington, had been found guilty of attempting to cause grievous bodily harm to his wife, a former beauty queen, last August.

The prosecution alleged that Kettle was inflamed with passion and jealousy when he drove a car at his wife on a public house car park after finding her with another man. She was saved from injury by Mr Alan Dawson, a labourer with whom she had a drink, who shielded her with his body, but received a broken leg.

Kettle and his wife, who is 22, had only lived together for three months.

Drugs alarm

A police alert went out yesterday after thieves broke into a Sheffield chemist's shop and stole enough cyanide and arsenic to kill 150 people. They are considered so dangerous that chemists have to send unused powders to a special centre at Harlow in Essex to be destroyed.

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Low octane unleaded fuel 'causes knocking'

By Jonathan Davis

Energy Correspondent

Many motorists will find two-star unleaded petrol unsatisfactory when it is introduced, the monopoly supplier of petrol lead additive in Britain predicted yesterday.

Associated Octel, which produces more than 95 per cent of all the lead alkyls used in the manufacture of British petrol, said that American experience suggested three in ten motorists would find the performance of low octane unleaded petrol unsatisfactory.

The company is keeping up its fight against the banning of all lead compounds from petrol, in spite of the Government's endorsement of the Royal Commission report on Monday, recommending the phasing out of all lead in petrol by 1990.

A spokesman for the company said that 22 per cent of motorists in the United States who had cars designed to run on unleaded petrol were buying higher octane fuel than they needed because they were unhappy with the engine "knocking" produced by two-star unleaded petrol.

Associated Octel, which is owned by five leading oil companies, said that the decision to introduce two-star unleaded petrol by 1990 would inevitably cast a shadow over the job prospects of its 2,700 British employees. The company, which has a turnover of £200m a year, most of it exported, employs 2,200 people in Ellesmere Port, Merseyside.

The Government's decision to opt for two-star unleaded petrol in preference to the introduction of unleaded petrol with a higher octane rating has been broadly welcomed by the oil industry.

Such a move requires minimal new investment at oil refineries and means that the financial burden of the changeover will be borne largely by the motor industry, which will have to introduce new engines at a cost of between £100m and £350m. Oil companies had been worried that they would be asked to modify their refineries to produce higher grade unleaded petrol.

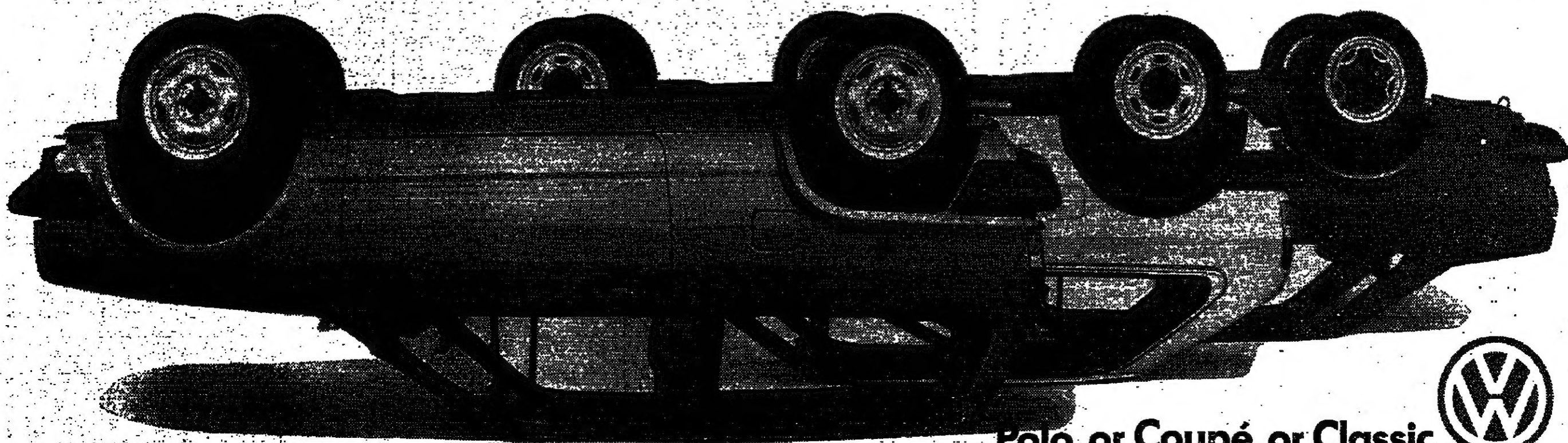
In its report the Royal Commission was at pains to counter the charge that introducing unleaded petrol would lead to a significant increase in petrol pump prices. It recommended that the tax on unleaded and leaded petrol should be adjusted to ensure that the price of unleaded petrol never exceeded that of the highest grade leaded petrol.

Walking 'the best way to get to work on time'

Walking 'the best way to get to work on time'

Polo. It's a tough choice.

Faced with its record of durability, reliability and safety, the choice between other small cars and the Volkswagen Polo is easy. Faced with the alternatives of a square-backed Polo, the Classic with a boot, or the new Coupé, choosing between Polos is much tougher.



Polo, or Coupé, or Classic.

Kohl cools tension over death of tourist on East German border

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Government was at pains yesterday not to exacerbate the sharp deterioration in relations with East Germany which has resulted from the death of a West German traveller to Berlin during questioning by East German border guards.

Dr Kohl's firm stand in demanding an explanation from Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, has been widely praised, but a government spokesman denied that the incident - the most serious since Dr Kohl came to office - had led to preparations for Herr Honecker's visit here being put on ice.

The Chancellor telephoned Herr Honecker on Monday and told him that an autopsy showed that a heart attack did not appear to be the only reason for the death of Herr Rudolf Burkert, who died during a two-hour interrogation on the crossing point with West Berlin on April 10.

The East German leader immediately promised a full investigation - a reaction that surprised observers here and is being taken as a sign that East Germany is embarrassed and anxious not to let the incident

be exploited by opponents of closer relations between the two countries.

One such opponent, Herr Franz Josef Strauss, Prime Minister of Bavaria, called it a "case of murder" and said evidence pointed to serious mistreatment of Herr Burkert by the border guards. "These are the interrogation methods of Barbie," he said. Other members of his Christian Social Union have questioned the proposed Honecker visit. Most papers, however, have sharply criticized Herr Strauss's stand, suggesting that Dr Kohl's more measured reaction politically was wise.

East German television gave a long account of the incident on Monday, saying Herr Burkert, a 45-year-old publican, stopped illegally at a motorway area on the way to Berlin and gave 3,000 marks to an East German citizen there. During questioning later he suffered an acute heart attack, slipped from a chair and hit his head.

The East German official news agency said yesterday Herr Honecker had told Dr Kohl it was a regrettable incident, but no blame attached to the border guards. All efforts would be

made to clear up the affair, which should not be allowed to upset bilateral relations.

Herr Otto Brüutigam, head of the West German mission in East Berlin, has asked for clarification of what is seen as the most serious such incident since the transit agreement was signed 12 years ago.

Meanwhile it has been revealed that an East German journalist accompanying Herr Günter Mittag, a senior member of the East German Politburo now on a visit here, has been arrested in Hanover on charges of spying. The order was issued in Berlin in 1980, and officials emphasized that the man's arrest last Friday was not connected with Herr Mittag's visit. He has been flown to West Berlin to appear in court. West German officials described him as a small fish in the espionage business.

Dr Kohl refused to meet Herr Mittag on Monday, but he has had extensive talks with other political leaders. Otto Graf Lambsdorff, the Economic Minister expressed satisfaction after a meeting at the growth of trade between the two German states, which last year showed a rise of 13 per cent over 1981.

Sir Harold in Moscow

Wilson 'Trots' baffle Russians

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Sir Harold Wilson returned to the international stage in Moscow yesterday to calm the troubled state of Anglo-Soviet relations and baffle the Russians with a series of deeply felt attacks on "Trots".

He said the recent deterioration in Anglo-Soviet relations after tit-for-tat expulsions was regrettable, and he hoped they would not affect the broad sweep of relations between the two countries.

Sir Harold was speaking to British and Soviet journalists after a visit to Moscow and Tashkent on behalf of the Great Britain-USSR Society, of which he is president. He said Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, had approved the visit, and had supported it with great enthusiasm.

The society, a non-political body supported by all parliamentary parties, had several times offered to send a senior delegation to the Soviet Union in recent years. It had been prevented from doing so by a series of upsets in East-West relations, including Poland and Afghanistan, Sir Harold said.

There were still "hiccups" and "obvious disagreements" between Britain and the Soviet Union. It was all the more important, however, to main-

tain cultural and other links at a time of East-West tensions. Referring to the recent spate of expulsions and retaliations, Sir Harold said, "It is regrettable that these things happen from time to time, but each side knows what the other is up to."

Sir Harold, who has been visiting Russia since 1947 and has known a series of Soviet leaders personally, was accompanied by Sir Fitzroy Maclean, who founded the GB-USSR Society in 1959, and Mr John Roberts, the society's director. They had talks with Mr Mikhail Solomontsev, prime minister of the Russian Federation and a candidate member of the Politburo.

Sir Harold Wilson said the British Labour Party was in serious difficulties, and that "many of our local parties" had been infiltrated by Trotskyists. Addressing Russian journalists - who included Mr Igor Titov, the New Times correspondent expelled from London three weeks ago - Sir Harold Wilson remarked: "You of course know all about Trotskyists from your history, but I don't suppose there are many around now. We can do without them, and as far as I'm concerned you can have them back." He said he thought Trotsky must be "revolving in

his grave", at the misuse being made of his name.

He was speaking at the exclusive, well-guarded Soviet Government guest house just off the broad sweep of Aleksei Kosygin Avenue, on the Lenin Hills, in which he has often stayed on previous visits.

In an interview with *The Times*, Sir Harold said that he had decided not to stand at the next general election, and that a new candidate had already been selected to fight his Yorkshire constituency for Labour. It is understood that disillusion over the rise of what he persistently refers to as "Trots" in local constituency parties - including his own - is behind his decision not to enter the Commons again.

Asked if he hoped to enter the House of Lords, Sir Harold said he had no intention of leaving politics altogether, "although I would rather be in the Commons". He remarked that he had been responsible for changing the rules so that an ex-Prime Minister could accept a life peerage.

Sir Harold forecast a September or October election, on the grounds that after the summer holiday voters would be in a better mood.

Diary page 14

Russians expel Briton

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

Mr Edward Chick, a 27-year-old Briton, was expelled from the Soviet Union on Monday for "spreading hostile materials" on the instructions of an anti-Soviet émigré organization, *Tass* reported yesterday.

Tass said that Mr Chick, who had come to the Soviet Union as a tourist, was caught "red handed" in Leningrad on Friday "trying to hand over smuggled seditious materials and instructions". He was put on a London-bound aircraft at Pulkovo airport, near Leningrad.

A British Embassy spokesman said the embassy had been informed of the case by the Soviet authorities but could not comment on Mr Chick's detention and expulsion. The Soviet action did not seem to be linked to "tit-for-tat" moves by Britain and Russia.

An unusual aspect of the case was that Mr Chick appeared on television in Leningrad to express his "profound regret" at having "unwittingly helped the forces opposed to peace".

No sign of Israelis softening terms for troop withdrawal

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

In a gesture of defiance against the extremists who devastated the American Embassy in Beirut, the thirty-first round of the tripartite talks aimed at securing the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon opened precisely on schedule yesterday in the Israeli resort of Netanya.

Before the serious negotiating began, the delegates from Israel, Lebanon and America expressed their condolences over Monday's massive bomb explosion. The leader of the American team, Mr Morris Draper, one of President Reagan's special Middle East envoys, emphasized that the attack had only made all sides "all the more determined" to press ahead with the talks.

Mr Draper, whose wife was slightly wounded in the Beirut blast, told reporters that the parties were determined to move ahead "as rapidly as possible" with the talks which have made painfully slow progress since they opened last December.

Mr David Kimche, the leader of the Israeli delegation, said: "I think we are all determined to carry on as before, but it does prove that there is still a danger of terrorism in Lebanon - that is what we have been saying all along."

The main sticking point remains differences between Israel and Lebanon over the future role of Major Saad

Haddad, the south Lebanese militia commander whom the Israelis insist be given a prominent military position in the south after his troops leave. The Lebanese have so far firmly resisted such a demand.

There was also little sign last night that Israel is prepared to soften its position over the proposed security arrangements for the buffer zone which will extend about 30 miles north of its border.

Briefing the weekly meeting of the Cabinet, both Mr Moshe Arens, the Defence Minister, and Mr Yizhak Shamir, the Foreign Minister, told their colleagues that the attack justified Israel's security demands.

Mr Arens reported on his meeting last week with Major Haddad and said that Israel was now considering ways of further strengthening the south Lebanese militia which it already supports with cash, training and weapons. A request by the major for increased arms supplies is under consideration.

Mr Shamir told Israel's army radio network: "We all regret the loss of human lives. This is very regrettable, even shocking, but in Lebanon nothing is surprising. I think the lesson is simple and understood. The security problems in Lebanon are still most serious, and terrorist organizations continue to operate there, at times with great success."

Walesa held for third time in week

Mr Lech Walesa, the former Solidarity leader, was interrogated by Polish authorities yesterday for the third time in a week, this time about the alleged disappearance of several million zloties from the union account in Wroclaw, a former bastion of support for the underground, Roger Boyes writes.

The pressure has been mounting on Mr Walesa who is now the subject of three separate investigations: about his meeting with underground leaders, about his managing of the Solidarity finances and his personal finances.

The interrogation yesterday - completed in two and a half hours - appeared to be aimed at finding out what happened to more than 10m zloties (£75,400) deposited in Solidarity's account in Wroclaw. The money was withdrawn days before the declaration of martial law.

Papusoiu ordered to leave Austria

Mr Stancu Papusoiu, the young Romanian whose deportation from Britain last month led to widespread protests, has now been ordered out of Austria (Our Vienna Correspondent writes).

An official of the Austrian Interior Ministry said yesterday that Mr Papusoiu was free to go wherever he wanted, but he would be expected to be out of the country within a week.

However, the official said that Mr Papusoiu was no longer being accused of having committed offences during a previous stay in Austria in 1980 and that he had therefore been released from the Vienna prison where he had been held overnight.

Mr Papusoiu was transferred to the prison from the refugee camp just south of Vienna on Monday afternoon after he withdrew his request for political asylum in Austria. Why he did this is not exactly clear, but the Interior Ministry official said it was because he realized he did not qualify for political asylum under the terms of the Geneva Convention.

The whole affair is now shrouded in an impenetrable Balkan fog of confusion and mystery. It is not clear why Mr Papusoiu was allowed to leave Romania earlier this month or where he thought he was going to when he was taken off the train by the Austrians.

Rome clears its mayor

Rome (Reuters) - Rome's communist mayor and two party colleagues were cleared of wrongdoing by a Rome magistrate investigating the alleged embezzlement of public funds.

Lawyers for the three men said they were satisfied with the verdicts but demanded more open, democratic conduct by the Rome Prosecutor's office which brought the charges.

The mayor, Signor Ugo Vetere, was cleared of improperly drawing a 2m lire (about £1,000) advance, later repaid, for a security escort to last month's Communist Party congress in Milan. All three were cleared of claiming false travel expenses from the Rome municipality.

Police break up Korean protest

Seoul - Helmeted police using tear gas and batons broke up a demonstration by about 800 students protesting against the alleged lack of democracy in South Korea on the anniversary of the 1960 student uprising that toppled President Syngman Rhee, *Jeonju Daily* writes.

As the chanting students, some calling President Chun Doo Hwan a fascist, linked arms on the campus of Yonsei University, plainclothesmen plunged into the crowd, punching and kicking, to drag off the ringleaders.

Uganda official found murdered

Kampala (Reuters) - The bullet-riddled body of Mr Rajab Lutaya, an official of Uganda's opposition Democratic Party, was found by a roadside three days after he was taken from his home by men in police uniforms, the newspaper *Munro* said.

Relatives said that Mr Lutaya was seized by men wearing the uniform of the police special forces. His death brings to 16 the toll in such incidents since Friday.

Aga Khan's gift

Dar es Salaam (AFP) - The Aga Khan, whose Islamic community here has 15 million followers, has pledged to give Tanzania \$60m (about £40m) to help rehabilitate tourist hotels and factories run by his Industrial Promotion Service.

Crowd fired on

Delhi (Reuters) - Police opened fire to break up a non-violent crowd yesterday in the Marxist-ruled state of Tripura in eastern India. Five people were wounded during the incident in the state capital of Agartala.

Bombs kill 3

Valencia (AFP) - A police lieutenant was killed here when a bomb placed under his car exploded. In a separate incident, two people were killed when a bomb went off, apparently inside their car.

Correction The Nationalist Party boycott of the Maltese Parliament, mentioned in a report on April 11, ended on March 25.

McCartney loses suit on paternity

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn

A West Berlin family court has ordered Mr Paul McCartney, the former Beatle, to pay a monthly sum of 705 Deutschmarks (£150) to a 20-year-old Berlin woman who says she is his illegitimate daughter.

The order has been made to Bettina Häber, whose mother Erika says she had a relationship with Mr McCartney while he was playing in Hamburg in the early 1960s before the Beatles became famous.

The court order, delivered yesterday, is temporary and backdated until September last year. It must be confirmed by impartially administered blood tests to establish paternity. The judge is to rule at the end of this month whether Mr McCartney should have a blood test under the court's control.

Mr McCartney has denied being the father of Bettina - who bears striking resemblance to him - and testimony to this effect was placed before the court by his Hamburg lawyer, who was not present when the judgment was handed down.

LONDON: Mr McCartney, who is filming in England at the moment, says he has no recollection of meeting the girl's mother. He is consulting with his West German lawyer as to whether he should pay the money pending the judge's ruling at the end of the month.

Attenborough tour off

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Sir Richard Attenborough, director of the award winning film *Gandhi*, will not now be making a promotional tour of South Africa where his film goes out on general release to racially segregated audiences at the end of this week.

Mr William Sharp, the manager of press relations for Sir Richard, the cinema chain

which is showing the film here, said Sir Richard's decision to cancel the visit had been communicated to his company on Monday night.

Sir Richard said that he respected Sir Richard's decision because of the "extreme international pressures from various sources" to which he had been subjected.



Meeting the press: Mr Mayson (left) and Canon Paul Oestreicher, international secretary of the British Council of Churches. Photograph: Harry Kerr.

Cleric tells of beatings and torture

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Methodist minister who jumped bail in South Africa, and fled to Britain, said yesterday that he had thereby saved several friends of his from prison.

The Rev Cedric Mayson, who is 55 and British-born, was explaining in London his change of mind about standing trial on charges under the Treason Act, on which he was expected to be acquitted.

Several people, including Dr Beyers Naundé, former director of the banned Christian Institute, had been interviewed recently by the police seeking further evidence against him.

They refused to cooperate, but on past experience it was likely the prosecution would subpoena them and they would be liable to be jailed for contempt for refusing to answer questions.

Since he was first arrested in November, 1981, the situation in South Africa had deteriorated, with the security forces now operating beyond the control of the courts, he said. While he happened to be speaking to his wife Penelope on the telephone after reaching Britain, his house was attacked by a white gang who damaged his car and caravan and shouted abuse. He hoped his family could leave South Africa to join him as soon as possible.

He said he admitted many

of the facts alleged in the charges against him, but not the crucial allegation that he was thereby seeking to further the aims of the African National Congress, a treasonable offence. He had helped people leave the country illegally, and he had literature in his possession he should not have had.

After his arrest he had made a confession, which the trial judge later ruled was inadmissible evidence.

"I was stripped naked and I

was handcuffed with my hands behind my back," he said. "It was a very difficult experience. Then I was kept awake for several days and nights, with no sleep."

A notorious interrogator, known as "Spyker" had pushed him to the floor, pumped on him and pulled his head backwards and forwards. "It was very intimidating, and also rather painful."

Had he stayed in South Africa, even after an acquittal, he expected to be hanged, put

under house arrest and possibly in due course, killed. He escaped by crossing the shallow Caledon River, the border with Lesotho, after a friend had driven him there. Other friends arranged transport for him to Mozambique, and then to London.

Mr Mayson said he had not been involved in any way with violent activity against the Government, and had originally wanted to stand trial "to defend the Christian witness of peace, harmony and justice".

Kay and Dennis Jelliman are incurable. They're not unhelpable.

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of the Hospital, go on outings, and have had two holidays in Jersey.

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Nkomo ponders future in lonely exile as Zimbabwe celebrates

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Officials of the Zimbabwe High Commission and their guests celebrated the third anniversary of independence at a reception in London this week, without the man who had most right to be there.

Mr Joshua Nkomo, aged 65, sat instead in his rented flat, two miles away across Hyde Park, supposedly planning his return to the country he fled five weeks ago.

Assurances on his safety and on the restoration of the principles of reconciliation and the rule of law on which Zimbabwe was founded, were his original conditions for going home.

Now he says he no longer cares about the former and would seem to have grave doubts about the latter. But speculation is nonetheless growing over the imminent return of Mr Nkomo to the land he fought for.

He refused to give interviews last week before Zimbabwe's independence day, pointing out that these at such a time were the prerogative of Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister and his old political enemy.

But he was quoted by Newsweek as accusing Mr Mugabe of pursuing a policy of "terrorism and destruction" to suppress opposition to one-party rule.

He said: "A referendum has got to be conducted in an

atmosphere that would result in a free and fair decision by the people. The terrorism and destruction that has gone on in Zimbabwe has not created that atmosphere."

There had been an attempt in Zimbabwe to use the problem created by dissidents for other purposes. Such as the implementation of one-party politics.

"The Government knows it cannot be done by persuasion so it has to be done by force. In order to deploy the Army certain acts must happen in certain areas and those acts must be attributed to dissidents."

"Everyone seems to forget that these so-called dissidents have concentrated their actions against us, against the Zimbabwe African People's Union (Zapu), he said.

One of his objectives while in Britain has been to find other ways of bringing pressure to bear on the Harare Government, since Mr Mugabe's rejection of the protest by Zimbabwe's Roman Catholic bishops.

People living there need to be given hope, according to Zapu sources. They need to be assured that their cause is being heard. By giving them such hope the prospect of civil war in the country can be ended.

Mr Nkomo is said to feel cheated by the Harare Government's one-party policy,

especially after he had done everything possible to persuade his own Zapu supporters, often against their better judgment, to cooperate with their old Zapu opponents.

Mr Tiny Rowland, the Lomro chief who backed Mr Nkomo as an old friend on the latter's arrival in this country, is now said to have withdrawn his support. Mr Nkomo must feel that the day is now approaching when he has to decide whether to return or resign himself to lonely exile.

Then it will be Mr Mugabe and his followers who will have to decide whether to proceed against the grand old man of Central African nationalism or whether once more to bridge the political gap between them. Neither man can pretend for much longer that the problem will simply go away.

● **HARARE** - Zimbabwe's main opposition party has again spoken out under the threat of banning for allegedly supporting anti-government guerrillas operating in the Western province of Matabeleland, Stephen Taylor writes.

Mr Mugabe said that officials of the Patriotic Front party had been directly aiding armed dissidents.

He said, "If the trend towards subversion continues, I can assure my Government will not hesitate to proscribe the party."



Top advice. Mr Igor Andropov, son of the Soviet Party leader, chats to his delegation chief Mr Anatoly Kovalyov, before the Madrid conference starts.

Security delegates deny reports of split

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

Chief delegates of West Germany and the United States attempted here yesterday to dispel reports of a split in the Western position as the conference on security and co-operation in Europe reconvened after a brief spring recess.

Speaking on behalf of the 10 members of the EEC, Herr Jorg Kasl, the West German ambassador, said that the latest proposal for a final document, submitted last month by neutral

and non-aligned nations, constituted a valuable effort, although members did not think the proposal in its actual form was completely satisfactory and further improvements were still needed in certain areas.

He assured fellow delegates at this 35-nation Helsinki Review conference that the Ten would be flexible and ready to use all available procedures appropriate to bring about satisfactory results.

Mr Max Kampelman, the US Ambassador, who according to unofficial reports was holding out for a tougher position on the proposed final document than were West Germany and other member countries of the Nato insisted at a meeting with journalists after the closed-door plenary session that he found very little difference among Western nations regarding the proposed document known as RM-39.

Commons outraged

Canadian budget leaked on TV

From John Best, Ottawa

Opposition spokesmen in the Canadian House of Commons yesterday demanded the resignation of Mr Marc Lalonde, the Liberal Finance Minister, after an unprecedented budget leak.

The Budget, Mr Lalonde's first since he was appointed last September, was due to be presented in the Commons last night.

At a pre-budget "photo-opportunity" session in the minister's office on Monday, a television cameraman filmed several pages of the French text of Mr Lalonde's speech.

They turned out to be key parts of the budget presentation, and showed the Government projecting a \$Can 31,200m (£16,200m) deficit for the fiscal year 1983-84, compared with a deficit of between \$Can 23,000m and \$Can 27,000m for the year just ended.

The film clips also showed government plans to spend \$Can 4,600m for job creation for the coming year.

The photo-opportunity session is traditionally held to allow informal pictures of the finance minister in advance of his budget speech.

Mr Lalonde, in this case, made the occasion more realistic by actually skimming through parts of the budget as the cameras whirled, apparently not realizing that at least one camera was picking up the fine print.

Mr Erik Nielson, the Con-

servative Opposition leader in the Commons, quickly demanded Mr Lalonde's resignation. He said the leak was so enormous that the finance minister had no recourse but to resign.

"There has never been a breach of such magnitude in Canadian history", Mr Nielson said.

Mr Nelson Riis, finance critic of the New Democratic Party, also demanded the minister's resignation, saying that the credibility of the whole Budget had been put in question.

In the British tradition, budgets here are supposed to be kept entirely secret until their unveiling, as speculators could move to take advantage of advance knowledge of their contents.

Mr Lalonde's office was still refusing yesterday morning to comment on the demands that he resign, but a spokesman for Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Prime Minister, said he did not expect Mr Lalonde to step down.

The leak was not without irony, in that Mr Lalonde had taken extraordinary precautions this year to ensure that he would not be scooped by the media on his own budget.

Prem's job seems safe for 4 years

Bangkok (Reuters) - General Prem Tinsulanonda seems assured of a further term as prime minister because none of the political parties achieved a clear majority in the general election yesterday.

Even the Kukrit Pramoj, the leader of the Social Action Party which won the biggest number of seats, has said that General Prem should stay.

General Prem succeeded his one-time mentor, General Kriangsak Chomanan early in 1980, and has since survived an abortive coup and crisis mounted by infighting in the outgoing coalition Government.

A former army chief, General Prem owes his unique position to personal integrity and to Thailand's complex politics in which civilians and the military share equal administrative and legislative powers. He has carefully guarded his reputation and stands aloof from government and business affairs which could compromise it.

While he regularly attends ceremonies and public functions sponsored by the Thai royal family to show his loyalty, he avoids private parties and other social activities.

He was born on August 26, 1920, in the provincial capital of Songkhla in southern Thailand into a middle-class family and commissioned into the Army as a sub-lieutenant in 1941. He had his first taste of combat in a brief border war with the French forces in Indo-China shortly afterwards. Unlike most politically ambitious generals, he spent all 36 years of his career in the field.

As Prime Minister he has displayed little personal knowledge of economic and administrative problems preferring to leave the day-to-day running of the administration to bureaucrats.

Leading the ruling coalition as a compromise choice, General Prem has often deliberately distanced himself from disputes and conflicts involving his two main coalition partners - the Social Action and the Thai National parties.

Thousands still held in Vietnam

By Richard Dowden

Vietnam is still holding several thousand people in "reeducation camps" because of the positions they held in the previous South Vietnamese Government, according to Amnesty International.

The human rights organization said that some of those detained are former policemen, soldiers or administrators who were arrested after the communist takeover in 1975 and others had been arrested since then for their religious or political beliefs or for trying to emigrate illegally. Amnesty urged yesterday that they be released or be brought to trial quickly.

There is no overall figure for the number of those detained, last year Mr Nguyen Co Thach, the Vietnamese Foreign Minister, was quoted as saying that some 16,000 people were being held in reeducation camps.

Nor are there details of conditions in the camps, but Amnesty said it was concerned at reports that large numbers of prisoners suffer from malaria, tuberculosis and diseases related to malnutrition. It was also concerned at reports that prisoners in some camps relied partly or wholly on food and medicine provided by their families.

● Emigrants are leaving Vietnam at the rate of more than 1,000 a month under the orderly departure programme according to Mr Paul Harding, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The programme began in 1979 and Mr Harding said that the number of boat people reported to be leaving Vietnam since then had dropped.

● Peking's China accused Vietnam yesterday of being solely responsible for artillery exchanges along their common border and threatened further retaliation if Hanoi did not stop its "provocations", Reuters reports.

The warning, by Qi Huafu, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, was China's strongest since last weekend when the two countries began exchanging artillery fire and accused each other of starting the violence.

Wettest winter for 50 years devastates Cuba

By Our Foreign Staff

Three months of torrential rain and hurricane force winds have devastated homes, crops and communications in Cuba creating what the national news agency calls an "extremely grave situation".

It has been the wettest winter for 50 years according to the Cubans, who say that the effects of the unseasonal storms which have swept the country since January are worse than the devastation caused by hurricane Flora in 1963 which killed more than 1,000 people and left 100,000 homeless.

In the sugar industry, the country's main export earner, the situation is described as "truly critical" with a loss of more than 25 million tonnes. Unofficial sources put the loss at two million tonnes, nearly a quarter of the total crop.

Cuba also faces a very serious foreign debt crisis. Creditor banks meeting in Paris yesterday failed to reach agreement with the Central Bank of Cuba on rescheduling some \$200m (about £133m) of short-term debt. Cuba, whose foreign debt amounts to about \$3,200m, is trying to postpone repayment of about \$1,200m. It is likely that Cuba will have to ask the Soviet

Union for emergency assistance.

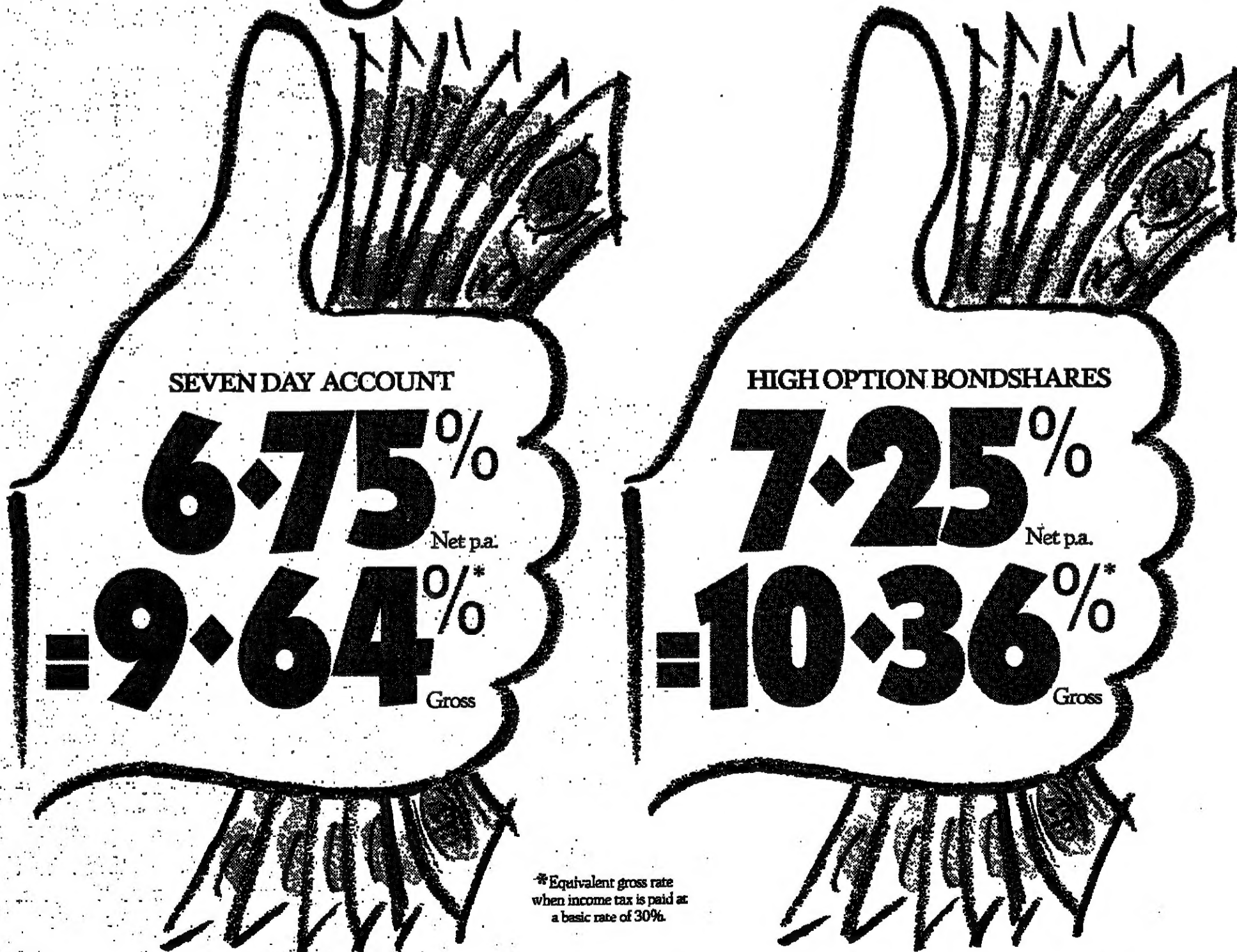
The Cuban news agency said last week that there had been 80 days of torrential rain, more than five times heavier than usual in some places for the time of year and winds of over 125 mph.

Although there have been few deaths and injuries, thousands of people have had to be evacuated from their homes, and there has been severe flooding destroying roads, bridges, factories and power lines.

On March 16 a tornado hit Mariel near Havana and "crushed huge high voltage towers as if they were paper", the news agency said. It said the estimates for damage were still provisional, but the entire export crop of tobacco, three quarters of the tomato crop and a quarter of the potato crop had been destroyed.

The news agency emphasized that the economic and social programme must be adhered to and exhorted the people to make an exceptional effort. The Government has set up a national working group headed by the vice-president of the National Council to coordinate relief work.

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Chernenko fails to attend Politburo meeting

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The failure of Mr Konstantin Chernenko to appear in a Politburo line-up at a key meeting of the leadership has reinforced reports circulating in Moscow that factional struggles are continuing with in the Kremlin.

Mr Chernenko, who was President Brezhnev's protégé but lost the leadership battle to Mr Yuri Andropov last November, was not among senior Politburo members who attended a Central Committee meeting on agriculture on Monday addressed by Mr Andropov. A report of the meeting on the front page of *Pravda* yesterday listed all 11 other Politburo members.

Mr Chernenko is not known to have been in bad health, and always appears relatively fit, so that illness is being discounted as an explanation. Earlier this month "ill health" was given as the reason for Mr Chernenko's unexpected absence from a conference in east Berlin.

Mr Chernenko initially dropped from view after the party leadership contest nearly six months ago, but has recently reemerged into the limelight. He chaired a Soviet block meeting on ideology in Moscow in mid-March, and appeared on the platform next to Mr Andropov and Mr Nikolity Tikhonov, the Prime Minister at a Kremlin meeting at the end

of March commemorating Karl Marx.

As head of the party's general department, Mr Chernenko has been a channel for the grievances of "Brezhnevites" and other victims of Mr Andropov's drive for greater efficiency and discipline.

In his address to regional party leaders at the Central Committee, Mr Andropov called for new management techniques in agriculture. He praised the efficiency of Russia's small-scale private farming, and urged "agro-industrial" complexes to "support and stimulate useful initiatives". Mr Andropov said that in a number of areas full use was not being made of "local resources for improving foodstuff supplies, and here I am speaking particularly about personal household plots".

Private peasant plots account for under 1 per cent of agricultural land in Russia, yet produce nearly a third of the total agricultural output, including fruit, vegetables and meat.

Acknowledgement of private enterprise is ideologically sensitive in the Soviet Union, however, and Mr Andropov appeared to be developing the mildly reformist food programme launched by Mr Brezhnev last May rather than calling for anything more radical.



Grimacing in the rain: The royal couple still smiling despite their broken-down Rolls-Royce

Royal couple revive their reputation as rainmakers

From Grantia Forbes of the Press Association, Auckland

The Prince and Princess of Wales received a soaking in New Zealand yesterday in weather fit only for ducks.

It was hot and fine last time Prince Charles was here two years ago, but this visit by the royal couple has been dogged by cold, wet conditions. Despite forecasts of better weather, it rained as the Prince and Princess opened Milford School, near Auckland.

The Princess, again wearing her pale yellow woollen dress and matching hat against the

weather, reached for a big black umbrella as soon as she stepped from the royal Rolls-Royce and as the couple started a walkabout through the grounds of the new heating school, which teaches children to be "water wise", they quickly sent for mackintoshes.

Opening the centre, Prince Charles could not resist a reference to the couple's reputation, built up during the tour of Australia and New Zealand, as rain-makers.

He said: "I am not exactly positive whether we brought the rain from Australia or whether it is some of the rain that soaked the Queen in California which has taken six weeks to cross the Pacific."

The weather even had the last word as they were leaving to attend a fire service display when the waiting Rolls-Royce, lent by the Governor General, failed to start because of ignition problems caused by the rain. As the driver, Mr

Fred Page, aged 60, struggled beneath the bonnet, the Prince and Princess delighted the crowds by going for another short walkabout. Finally, a black Daimler had to be used instead.

Prince Charles suffered from food poisoning in Australia and his temperature soared to 104 degrees, according to Mr John Maxwell, a factory foreman, who said the Prince told him of the brief illness when they met yesterday.

Right forces head of Salvadoran defence to resign

San Salvador (NYT) — General José Guillermo García, El Salvador's Minister of Defence, under attack from both American and Salvadoran authorities for his management of the war against a leftwing insurgency, resigned on Monday.

General García had been criticized by the extreme right for his support of the land redistribution programme and the provisional Government that came to power after the election last year.

General Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova, the director of the National Guard, was nominated by the provisional President Alvaro Magaña as Defence Minister.

Considered a political moderate, General Vides Casanova was named guard commander in 1979 in an effort to end the organization's excesses. His appointment as Defence Minister is subject to confirmation by the 60-member Constituent Assembly.

General García was appointed to the military junta formed after the overthrow of General Carlos Humberto Romero in 1979 and is the last member of the group to remain in the Government. He was considered the conservative representative on the junta, but as other, more left-leaning, military members were forced out he rose in prominence and played a role in stabilizing the country's civilian Government. Last year, he emerged as the crucial government supporter of the land redistribution programme, a project backed by the United States.

His support brought criticism from the far right and there were rumours of a possible coup last autumn. Early this year, as the leftwing guerrillas began to have a series of successes in the countryside, General García became the focus for American as well as Salvadoran frustrations with the course of the war.

These frustrations became public when a little known commander of a north-eastern province refused in January to accept an order transferring him to the Salvadoran Embassy in Uruguay until the Defence Minister resigned.

General García offered his resignation at a meeting attended by other commanders on March 18, but it was not accepted by President Magaña.

According to a political source, President Magaña gave the continuance of American aid as one of the reasons for his continued support of the Defence Minister. The Americans, the source said, then made it clear that the United States supported the institution and not necessarily one man.

This month, however, when Colonel Juan Rafael Bustillo, the Air Force Commander, threatened to mutiny if García did not resign by last Friday, President Magaña was forced to act. Minutes before Colonel Bustillo's deadline, he received a telephone call from the Presidential House saying that General García would resign on Monday.

Mexico breakthrough eludes Shultz

From Joan Carlin, Mexico City

Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State, ended his first day of talks on Central America with Senator Bernardo Sepúlveda, the Mexican Foreign Minister, with plenty of agreement on objectives for the war-torn region but little of substance on means of reaching them.

A US Administration official said in Mexico City on Monday night that both governments wished to see a lasting and peaceful solution to the escalating conflicts in Central America, and that they would like to work together for healthy economies and pluralistic political systems in the region.

But when pressed on whether Mr Shultz had got any nearer to overcoming the traditional differences between Mexico and the United States on their visions of the Central American dilemma, the American official had to concede that no breakthrough had been made.

The United States conceives of Central America predominantly as a stage for superpower confrontation, while Mexico sees the region's problems in more local terms, as the product of centuries-old social injustices.

Nevertheless, Señor Sepúlveda

da said it was urgent that these differences should somehow be reconciled if a lasting peace was to be achieved in Central America. The meetings Señor Sepúlveda and Mr Shultz were due to have yesterday would be crucial in the expeditiously desired wish on both sides for a certain rapprochement on the view of how this could best be done.

Mr Shultz has been accompanied on his Mexican visit by Mr Donald Regan, the United States Treasury Secretary, who had four hours of talks on Monday with Señor Jesús Silva Herzog, the Mexican Finance Minister, on the prospects for Mexico's battered economy. A United States Treasury spokesman said at the end of the day's talks that they had been favourably impressed with the Mexican Government's analysis of their country's economic predicament.

Mexico, with a foreign debt of \$8,500m (\$25,500m), depends on oil exports for more than 70 per cent of its foreign earnings. Financial analysts fear that if the oil price continues to fall, the international banking community, with United States banks on the front line, might be obliged once again to bail out Mexico.

Austrians prepare to vote

Kreisky's popularity will ensure party victory

From David Blow, Vienna

Austrians go to the polls on April 24 to vote in a general election that has once again been dominated by the personality of Dr Bruno Kreisky, the Chancellor. Although he is now 72 and in poor health, his prestige and widespread popularity after 13 years in office are expected to ensure that his social democratic party remains the largest party in the Nationalrat or lower house of Parliament.

What is less certain is whether the Social Democrats will retain their absolute majority in the new Parliament or whether Austria is in for a period of coalition government. In the present Nationalrat the Social Democrats have 95 seats, the conservative People's Party 77 and the liberal Freedom Party 11. The situation is complicated by the fact that two new green parties are contesting the election for the first time, the rightwing United Greens and the leftwing Alternative List.

The Social Democrats rightly claim that Austria has withstood the economic storms of recent years better than most other western countries, though how much this is due to the Social Democratic government and how much to the enviable Austrian tradition of compromise and cooperation embodied in the social partnership is another question.

A country where strikes are almost unknown and where managers and union leaders sort out their problems over a glass of wine clearly has some built-in advantages. These are reflected in the latest economic forecasts that predict an unemployment level this year of 4.5 per cent and an inflation rate of 3.7 per cent.

But although the unemployment level is still very low by international standards, it has doubled since 1981 and the rate of increase is causing some concern. Dr Alois Mock, the leader of the opposition People's party, is irritated by the constant favourable comparison with other countries.

But although the unemployment level is still very low by international standards, it has doubled since 1981 and the rate of increase is causing some concern. Dr Alois Mock, the leader of the opposition People's party, is irritated by the constant favourable comparison with other countries.

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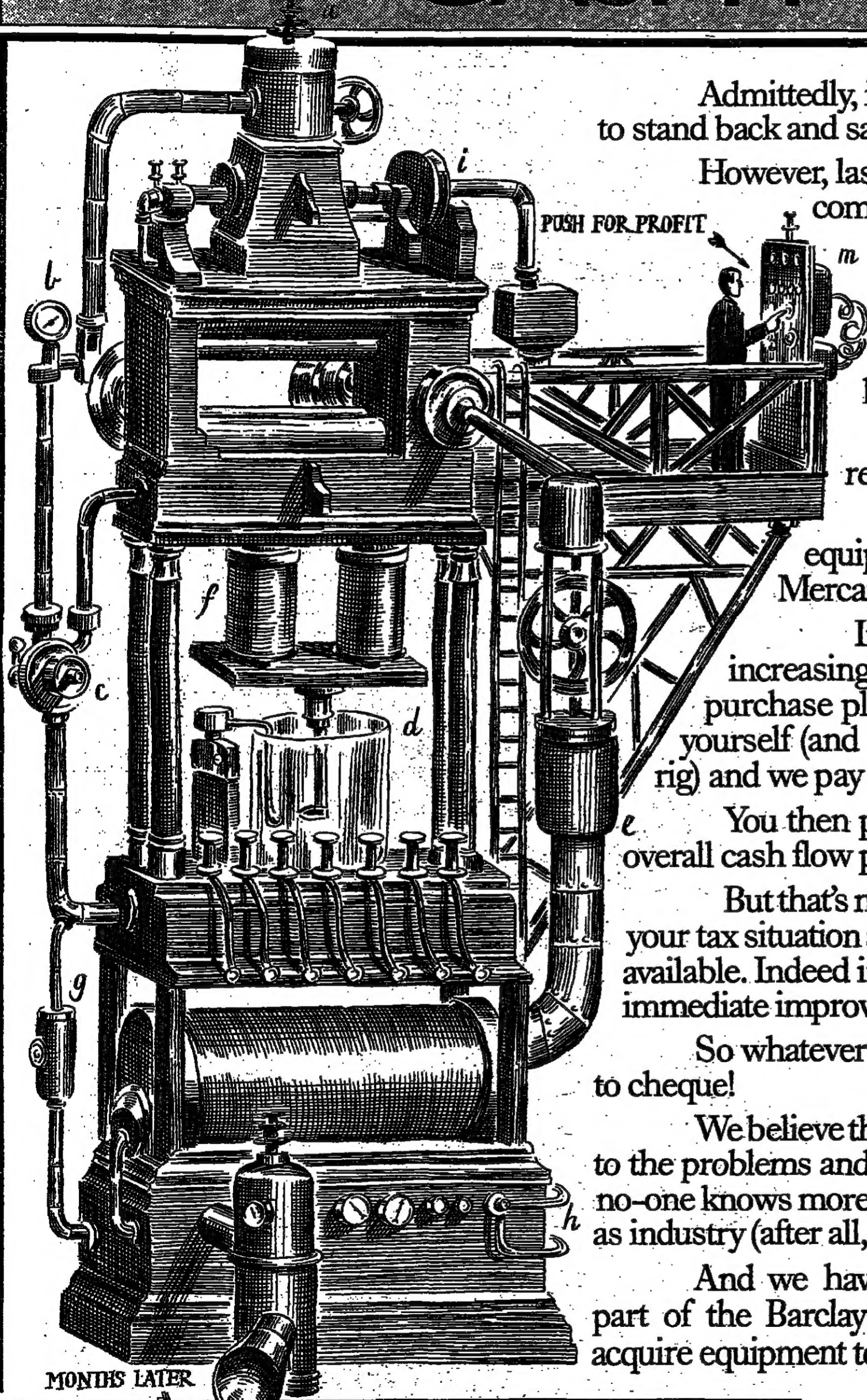
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A SPECIAL REPORT

TEA

We had a kettle, we let it leak,
Our not repairing it made it worse,
We haven't had any tea for a week,
The bottom is out of the universe.

Rudyard Kipling

A large mug of gently steaming, whitish brown liquid stands on my desk in front of me as I type this. Cheaper, more ubiquitous and less pernicious than either nicotine or alcohol, tea remains unchallenged as our national drink, or drug.

If we exclude plain tap water, tea accounts for more than half our total liquid consumption. We are by far the largest importers in the world, and only the Irish drink more per head than we do.

That we should have made ourselves so dependent on a totally non-indigenous plant, grown thousands of miles away in tropical Asia and Africa, is extraordinary. But we should, it seems, be grateful, without tea, our addiction might well have taken a more destructive turn. "In the bracing climate of the north," according to an entertaining book published by Thompson, Lloyd and Ewart, the tea brokers, "men will go to almost any lengths to avoid drinking plain water." It points out that in medieval times the monks of Abingdon were entitled to three gallons of beer each, while those at Battle were rationed to a gallon of wine.

If the book's author, P. J. Banyard, is to be believed, the "capricious" behaviour of medieval people may well be explained by their dependence on alcohol. From what we know of 18th century drinking habits, which are more fully chronicled, there is much to be said for his assertion that tea and coffee have provided "an immense service to civilisation."

The supposition nowadays is that we drink them in preference to stronger stimulants because they are cheaper. Were the Chancellor in a moment of aberration to remove all duties on wine, it is said, we would follow the example of the French and the Italians and do terrible damage to our livers.

But history does not support this view. When tea took Britain by storm in the 17th and 18th centuries, it was a very expensive drink; a pound of the cheapest variety would cost a skilled worker about one third of his weekly wage and, until the high duties were repealed in 1784, smuggling was widespread.

Ironically, it is only in recent years, when the cost for most people has been relatively insignificant, that tea drinking in Britain has declined. Between 1967 and 1978 consumption fell by about 30 per cent from over 200,000 tonnes to little more than 160,000 tonnes, although in the last three or four years the trend has been reversed.

The main competition at first was from coffee, with the rapid growth of coffee bars in the late 1950s and early 1960s, belated successors to the 17th century coffee houses which, ironically,

owed their decline to the advent of tea. They proved to be a short lived phenomenon, but the "coffee habit" was retained and strengthened by the ready availability of a wide range of instant brands.

From 1972 onwards, according to Mr Jim Munday, executive director of the Tea Council, consumer preferences, particularly among young people, turned to soft drinks. Since 1978 the council's advertising, primarily on television and in magazines, has been aimed at giving tea a more sophisticated image.

Unlike the clever but short-lived "Join the Tea Set" posters in the 1960s, the campaign appears to have worked. The council's latest annual report says that it has been particularly successful in changing the attitude to tea among young people, especially young housewives. There also appears to be a widespread view, in this health conscious age, that tea is better for you than coffee.

The revival of tea drinking in Britain, together with its growing popularity in the United States, Poland and West Germany, has come not a moment too soon for the industry. During the latter part of last year, according to Mr Alban Davies, the council's chairman, supply and demand were broadly in balance for the first time since 1976.

In that year there was a fall in world production and an outbreak of panic buying, which led to soaring prices and subsequent collapse. This time, he believes, the picture is altogether healthier.

A steady growth in world demand is needed to absorb a similarly steady growth in production; between 1970 and 1981 total exports rose from 651,000 tonnes to 851,000 tonnes. The three giants are still India, China and Sri Lanka (which, interestingly, still calls its product *Ceylon* tea), but other countries are moving up the table fast, notably Kenya and Malawi.

For Third World countries tea is a convenient cash crop, relatively easy to grow and labour intensive. It was this

realization that led to the collapse of the old voluntary quota system in the mid-1950s. Since then fears that supply would outstrip demand have led to protracted talks on an international quota system under the auspices of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad). So far the talks have made no headway, and there is little optimism about any agreement in the foreseeable future.

The other great change that has overtaken the trade has been the decline in importance of the auction market. The traditional auction is still held every Monday at Sir John Lyon House, in Upper Thames Street, and there are others in Colombo, Calcutta, Cochín, Mombasa, Java and Cebu. Whereas at one time auctions accounted for about half of all British sales, their volume slumped last year alone from 82,000 tonnes to 59,000 tonnes.

High interest rates and producers' increasing reluctance to wait several months for payment have discouraged distributors from carrying large stocks in warehouses. Instead most tea is now bought on contract in the country of origin, and stocks are frequently kept afloat in container ships as being cheaper than storage ashore.

These developments have not been universally welcomed. Mr Jagdish Khattar, director of promotion in the London office of the Tea Board of India, maintains that an increasing proportion of substandard tea is being imported into Britain, and that the overall quality has declined as a result.

Teas are regularly sold under their purported places of origin, such as Ceylon, Assam, or Kenya, when in fact they are blends from various sources, he claims. For example, the lovely aromatic Darjeeling tea can, for climatic reasons, be grown only in the foothills of the Himalayas, and production is limited to about 10,000 tonnes a year. Yet Mr Khattar estimates that between three and four times that amount is packed and retailed as Darjeeling.

Under the Trade Description Act packers need only mention in small print that teas are blends from various sources. The Indian Government has formally asked Britain to implement minimum standards for imports, but has had no success to date.

Starling's recent decline has been bad news for the producer countries, since it is historically the currency in which nearly all trade is conducted. But it has certainly helped to boost sales in Britain: Mr Munday is able to claim that a home-made cup of Darjeeling (presumably real Darjeeling) costs less than a cup of instant coffee.

"The greatest growth potential is undoubtedly at the quality end of the market," he says. "Go into supermarkets and you will see shelves full of speciality blends. Tea is becoming trendy again. There is even a shop in Covent Garden which sells nothing else."

Health consciousness also helped sales of tea, and the recession, he admits, "has not done us any harm. Tea has for so long been part of the wallpaper that its virtues tend to have been forgotten. Now it is reclaiming its proper status. Even tea dances are making a comeback."

John Young

CHINA

The art and its name

China, which taught us the art of tea cultivation and gave the drink its name, may well have reemerged as the world's largest producer. Official figures for 1982 of 370,000 tonnes put it second to India; but there is a substantial unrecorded amount of tea grown in small quantities and used locally. Estimates of actual production range from about 620,000 tonnes to nearly one million tonnes.

It is thought that China has about 2.5 million acres of tea fields, roughly 45 per cent of the world's total. These are mainly in the subtropical south-east and centre of the country, in the provinces of Yunnan, Guangxi, Guangdong, Sichuan, Guizhou, Hunan, Hubei, Jiangxi, Zhejiang, Anhui, Henan, Jiangsu, Fujian and Shaanxi.

Production is expected to increase by between 3 and 5 per cent a year into the 1990s, mainly to meet domestic demand. According to a Chinese tea delegation which visited the United States last year, 90 per cent of China's population of more than 1,000 million drink tea every day. A



Eric Tye, chief blender at Ty-Phoo, with the tools of his trade. About 25 different teas go into the average packet.

man is likely to put down six to 12 (albeit small) cups and a woman three to eight cups.

Most of this is green tea; of which there are thousands of varieties in China. Of the officially recorded production in 1982, it is estimated that 275,000 tonnes, or nearly 75 per cent, was of green tea. The Chinese delegation said that about 60 per cent of the increased output in the coming years would be in green tea and 40 per cent in black.

However, it is the smaller, black tea production which has caught the attention of the outside world. More than 95 per cent of the world tea trade is in black tea and it is with this type that China has the better chance of earning foreign currency. Its exports of both black and green teas have more than doubled since 1970 and now stand at about 50,000 tonnes each. The black goes mainly to Europe and the United States and the green to other Asian countries and North Africa.

China's growing international importance has aroused fears among the biggest black tea exporters, India, Sri Lanka and Kenya, that they will be ousted from their leading positions by

the "dumping" of vast quantities of cheap Chinese tea on the world market.

These fears are probably exaggerated. First, huge domestic demand will take care of most of the increase in Chinese production. Secondly, as a country which is desperately short of hard currency, China would presumably not wish to engineer a collapse in tea prices.

Britain is the largest overseas market for Chinese tea, followed by the United States and Pakistan, and last year our imports from China jumped by nearly 97 per cent to 11,804 tonnes.

Several factors lie behind this increase. The most important concern changes in production and distribution. First, the Chinese have improved quality by greater use of fertiliser and modern machinery (some of it copied from Western models). Secondly, they are catering increasingly for tea bags - which account for 60 per cent of the British market - by manufacturing tea with small and precisely sized leaves. Thirdly, in the last two years they have switched to shipping their tea in standard

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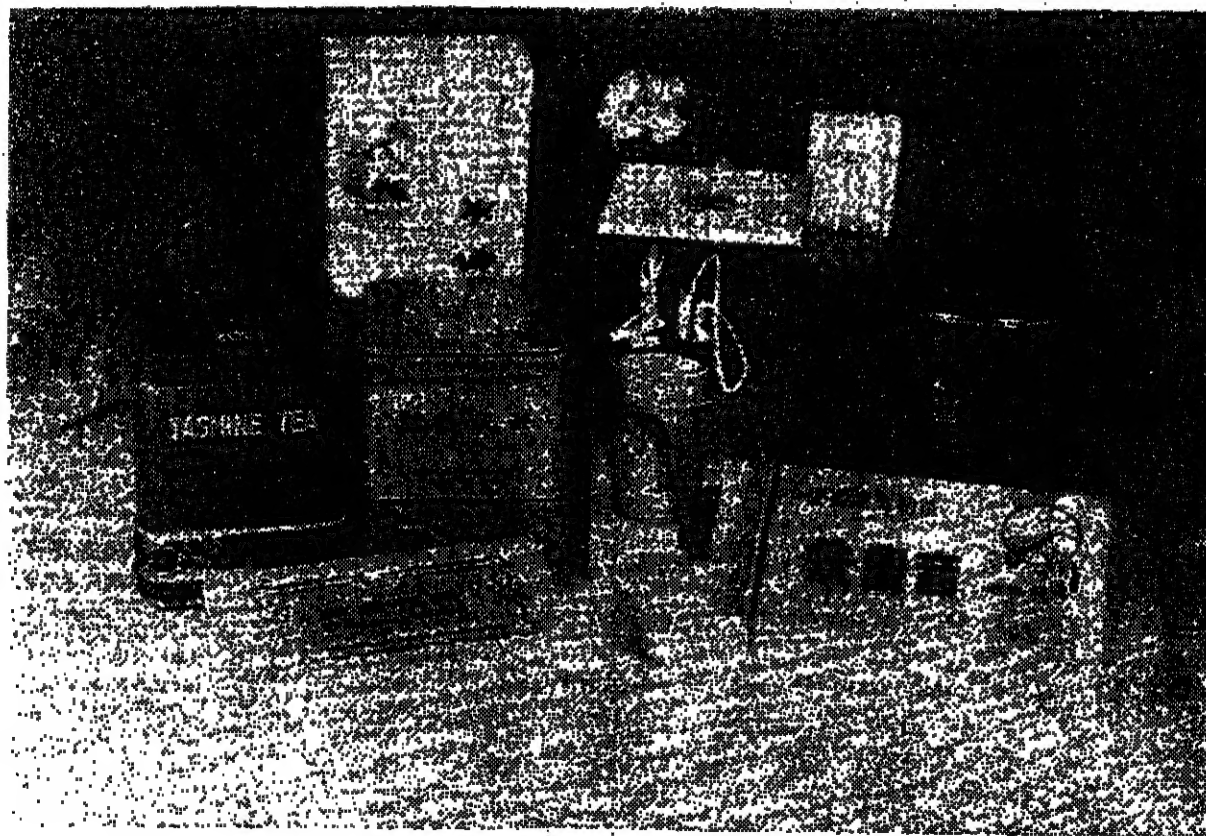


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44/25/10

continued from previous page
measurement plywood chests
placed on pallets and packed in
20ft containers.

In addition, China was able to benefit from changes in the international market. In 1981 Britain bought large quantities of cheap Argentine and Mozambique tea for blending. The following year the Falklands war affected supplies of the first, and a dramatic decline in quality, supplies of the second. The Chinese were in a position to fill the gap. According to a leading tea buyer in London, they are likely to hold on to most of the increase in their sales to Britain, despite severe flooding in their tea growing areas this year.

China continues to steer clear of the London auctions, still the most international of the terminal markets, though ceding in volume to Colombo and Calcutta. Some Chinese tea appeared in the auctions in the late 1950s but fetched poor prices. The Chinese have since preferred to sell forward through merchants or direct to the wholesaler, although a negligible amount of tea has been placed in the auction by a third party.

Last August the Chinese sent a delegation to the much smaller, and more local, auction in Singapore but, as with London, have not yet committed their tea to it.

Simon Scott Plummer

INDIA

Fighting to keep its leadership

India's tea industry, based on 8,000 plantations mostly in Assam, Darjeeling and parts of the South Indian hills, is still the largest in the world. But it is having a difficult time and fighting to keep its leadership in an increasingly competitive market.

Its share of the world market is falling and people in the industry see it as going through a period of stagnation. Seven years ago India had a 38.6 per cent slice of world production and 30.1 per cent of the world's exports. Last year these shares had fallen to 30.8 per cent and 23.1 per cent respectively.

In 1980 India produced a record 372 million kg, but in the following year production fell to 361 million kg. It is estimated that it rose slightly to 365 million kg in 1982.

India's performance needs to be seen in relation to world production, which has increased every year since 1970. China's production, for example, went up from 303.75 million kg in 1980 to 342.5 million kg the following year and 370 million kg in 1982.

India regained its position as Britain's largest source of tea in 1982, having lost it to Kenya in 1981. There has been a remarkable rise in Indian tea exports to the Soviet Union, now the biggest customer. Four years ago Britain bought 51 million kg of India tea and the Russians had 40 million kg. Two years later Britain's purchase was

down to 39.5 million kg, while the Russians imported 78 million kg.

India's production difficulties are caused partly by what the industry call its "disorganized sector." The "organized sector" runs the large and successful gardens and is increasing its output, but the "disorganized" part of the industry - small businessmen who have entered it in the hope of quick profits and who do not have the skills and knowledge of the traditional growers - are paying a price in falling production for their lack of expertise.

Many of the gardens in Darjeeling, West Bengal, are run by these relative newcomers. Industry sources say that these men do not have the "feel" for tea which the original British planters developed and which has been inherited by those who work for the large tea houses. About three fifths of the industry, especially in Assam and Southern India, are run by the "organized" sector.

Assam produces about 60 per cent of all India's tea and the industry there is obviously a vital one. The eruption of violence this year, which has claimed thousands of lives, has not affected production because many of the plantation workers are from Bihar and Andhra Pradesh and have not been involved in the inter-caste disputes and the settlers issue.

Nevertheless, there is anxiety that tea garden workers could be drawn into the troubles of a volatile state.

Meanwhile, the violence has caused severe transport problems. Many bridges have been burnt and roads have been blocked.

The overall downturn in production is partly the result of drought which has hit output in South India. Producers also point to increasing labour and fertilizer costs, the fall in selling prices, high taxes and export restrictions.

In spite of their financial difficulties, many tea growers feel that an industry so important to India's economy is bound to improve production provided the Government is sympathetic to calls for subsidies and reduction of taxes.

Research is being intensified in the search for better yields, and machinery is being improved gradually. The industry is also seeking to instruct planters, especially in the "disorganized sector", in management skills.

Trevor Fishlock

New Delhi Correspondent

SRI LANKA

Change in image, if not flavour

Colombo retained its position as the world's largest tea auction centre last year but sales amounted to 179.2 million kilos, compared with 198.7 million kilos in 1981. Production was 187.8 million kilos, the lowest since 1965, when the country produced 228.7 million kilos. Figures for the first two months of this year are the lowest for the period since 1959.

WORLD TEA PRODUCTION

(1982 exports in brackets)

| | 1980 | 1981 | 1982 | |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Asia | 571,681 | 581,920 | 586,571 | (185,900) |
| India | 40,037 | 41,287 | 40,383 | (34,415) |
| Bangladesh | 131,375 | 210,143 | 187,816 | (181,000) |
| Sri Lanka | 79,708 | 86,503 | 70,000 | (60,000) |
| Indonesia | 303,750 | 342,500 | 370,000 | (35,000) |
| China | 24,479 | 25,223 | 25,000 | (14,500) |
| Taiwan | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | (2,000) |
| Japan | 102,805 | 102,304 | 102,000 | (2,500) |
| Malaysia | 4,008 | 3,052 | 3,200 | (650) |
| Turkey | 85,889 | 41,165 | 40,000 | (4,000) |
| Vietnam | 5,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | (7,800) |
| Total | 1,438,207 | 1,440,111 | 1,430,980 | (587,765) |
| Africa | 1,455 | 2,228 | 2,000 | (1,700) |
| Burundi | 1,878 | 2,000 | 2,000 | (80,800) |
| Cameroon | 89,893 | 90,941 | 98,033 | (37,500) |
| Kenya | 29,815 | 31,955 | 38,482 | (4,500) |
| Malawi | 4,385 | 5,072 | 5,000 | (18,500) |
| Mozambique | 19,500 | 22,180 | 21,000 | (5,500) |
| Rwanda | 7,000 | 7,000 | 7,000 | (1,198) |
| South Africa | 6,300 | 6,807 | 7,000 | (1,198) |
| Tanzania | 17,087 | 15,898 | 16,230 | (1,198) |
| Uganda | 1,533 | 1,672 | 2,337 | (1,198) |
| Zaire | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | (8,500) |
| Zimbabwe | 9,954 | 10,286 | 10,500 | (8,500) |
| Total | 193,901 | 201,067 | 212,582 | (173,498) |
| Soviet Union | 129,800 | 138,500 | 140,000 | |
| South America | 34,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 | (26,500) |
| Argentina | 9,707 | 10,000 | 10,000 | (7,500) |
| Brazil | 2,000 | 1,700 | 2,000 | (1,800) |
| Ecuador | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 | (100) |
| Peru | | | | |
| Total | 48,707 | 44,700 | 45,000 | (35,800) |
| Papua New Guinea | 8,007 | 8,888 | 6,351 | (7,000) |
| Other Countries | | | | (300) |
| Grand total | 1,818,622 | 1,829,878 | 1,834,913 | (804,483) |

Sources: International Tea Committee, London (ITC Estimates have been inserted where figures are not available).

Sri Lanka's tea industry may never recover from the shocks and stresses of nationalization in 1975, when many experienced planters sought employment elsewhere. Large acreages of tea were broken up and entrusted to cooperatives or were taken out of cultivation for the expansion of villages.

Another setback to the tea industry has been the exodus of skilled workers of Indian origin. In 1964 and 1974 the Indian and Sri Lanka Governments signed agreements on the future of about one million workers of Indian origin on the plantations. Sri Lanka would grant citizenship to 375,000 people and India would take back about 625,000, more than half of whom have already gone.

The present and last Sri Lanka Governments have tried to revive the industry, which remains the country's biggest source of foreign exchange, with incentives ranging from generous subsidies for replanting or new planting to special concessions for export in tea bags instead of bulk. However, efforts to improve output and quality have been largely negated by a deterioration in pruning, plucking, soil conservation and fertilizer application.

The Tea Research Institute has pinpointed inadequate supervision and the shortage of experienced and trained labour as the main causes of poor performance, even in replanted tea acreages. With Sri Lankans taking the place of Indians many estates suffer from absenteeism, and this has also affected the maintenance of proper plucking rounds and the harvesting of leaf.

Despite efforts by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad) and meetings between producing countries in recent years, no agreement has been reached on proposals to limit production and regulate exports through quotas. Sri Lanka and India are in favour of such action but the new producers in Africa, which are increasing output, are against.

Fortunately for the industry and the national exchequer, there have been boom prices recently. The average price at auctions this year has been between 30 rupees and 35 rupees per kilo. Last year's Colombo auction average was 18 rupees.

Shortages in other producing countries, the unrest in Assam, where both planters and workers have left, the gradual devaluation of the Sri Lankan rupee, and the steep increases in the costs of other beverages are seen as the main causes of the higher prices, but none of these factors is likely to prove enduring. In his Budget speech last month Mr Ronnie de Mel, Minister of Finance, said it was essential to take the fullest advantage of the prevailing high prices by increasing productivity and improving the quality of Sri Lanka's tea.

The prospects for the tea industry in the immediate

future will be closely linked with oil prices. From 1975 Middle East countries filled the void left by traditional buyers and became the industry's best customers. Iraq was the biggest buyer of Sri Lanka's tea last year, purchasing 28.3 million kilos, followed by Egypt, with 23.4 million kilos.

Britain, which had been Sri Lanka's best customer, was third, with 19.1 million kilos. British purchases from Sri Lanka have fallen by around 75 per cent since 1962, when they were 80.4 million kilos.

A complete restructuring of the tea industry has been under consideration by the Government. In keeping with its economic policies, the private sector will once again be brought in to manage the state-owned plantations.

Donovan Moldrich
Colombo Correspondent

EAST AFRICA

Quality begins to pay off

Tea is an important item in the economies of Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Mozambique, Rwanda and Zimbabwe, and between them the East African countries are the largest source of supply for the British market. In Uganda, where tea was an important export until ten years ago, the crop is being slowly restored to its former place in the economy.

The increased popularity of East African teas in Britain is a consequence of their high and consistent quality, coupled with an increasing crop volume. Kenya, in particular, has the added advantage of producing a steady volume of tea throughout the year, with very little seasonal variation.

The large tea estates which formerly supplied all Kenya's production are now complemented by a growing volume of tea from small African farmers, each growing no more than an acre of the crop. Backed by sound advice and supervision, and with a chain of modern tea factories to process their crop, 150,000 farmers last year produced 31,000 tonnes of tea from 55,000 hectares of land. This year they will probably produce 38,000 or 39,000 tonnes.

The rest of Kenya's production, totalling 95,600 tonnes last year and probably more than 100,000 tonnes this year, is grown on large estates operated by such well-known firms as Brooke Bond, James Finlay and George Williamson.

After Kenya, Malawi is the second-largest producer, with more than 30,000 tonnes of tea each year. Mozambique produces around 22,000 tonnes and Tanzania about 16,000 tonnes. In the early 1970s Uganda was producing over 20,000 tonnes a

year. Present production is a small fraction of that, but Mitchell Cotts, a British firm, is gradually restoring the extensive tea holdings seized from them in 1972 as part of President Idi Amin's "economic war".

Last year, in fact, was a reasonable one for the East African tea producers, who saw world market prices recovering nicely from the depressed levels from the previous four years. Recent London market prices for quality teas have been well above those of a year ago.

Marketing systems vary. Kenyan tea producers, for instance, must contribute 15 per cent of their output to the local market at prices which are fixed well below world levels. This system is understandably unpopular with the growers.

The rest of Kenya's output goes mainly to the Mombasa and London tea auctions, or in private treaty sales to the European continent. Small quantities are also sold these days on the newly-established Singapore auctions, which serve the South-East Asian and Australian markets. Still more is sold offshore - auctioned while it is afloat.

The tea industry is undergoing important changes: more and more tea is being shipped from Kenya in containers, which can be moved direct from the big estates to big buyers in Britain at substantial savings in transit time and costs.

With containers, tea can be shipped in paper sacks, instead of in the traditional tea chests. This gives big cash savings, as a paper sack costs less than a third of the cost of a tea chest.

Kenya also exports a small quantity of blended tea in packets to other African markets. The advantage of this trade is that it brings in a higher net return. Tea bags are also manufactured in Kenya, mainly for the local market, and a small quantity of soluble ("instant") tea is also produced, for both the local and export markets.

Important developments are taking place in tea cultivation in Africa. Better husbandry and the selection of improved strains of tea are improving yields. Ten years ago Kenyan estates were happy to get 2,000 kilograms of tea per hectare; now they look for 2,500 kilograms. And individual African farmers, who are able to give the closest of attention to their crop, can get up to 4,000 or 5,000 kilograms per hectare. Perhaps the most outstanding development in tea production has been the use of clonal techniques to reproduce tea, rather than the traditional use of seed. Clonal tea can be more carefully selected to reproduce the best strains, and this system of propagation is being used widely today.

Charles Harrison
Nairobi Correspondent

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SPECTRUM

Tourists and brass bands helped Hitler to create detailed plans for an invasion of Ireland, described in the second extract from a new book by Robert Fisk

The Nazis' Irish guidebook

In the summer of 1940, few people outside Ireland could have had a more detailed knowledge of the Irish border than the cartographers of the Wehrmacht's Department for War Maps and Surveys in Berlin. Their *Militär-geographische Angaben über Irland* (Military Geographical Data on Ireland) was produced for German invasion troops and contained relief maps and diagrams of the country's military bases, railway system, electrical grids, airfields, factories, gasworks, canals, rivers, mineral deposits, population density and townlands. It was a formidable piece of work, buttressed by an impressive volume of photographs and a 78-page green-covered booklet on Eire and Northern Ireland.

Seventeen pages carried thumb-nail sketches of 233 cities, towns and villages on both sides of the Irish border and one map even outlined in black and grey shading those parts of the island that were Irish-speaking. A mass of tiny illustrations - of aeroplanes, ships, cotton reels, oil lamps and gasometers - were clustered around Belfast, generously symbolizing the Northern Ireland capital's aircraft, shipbuilding and textile industries, its refineries and power plants. "English brutality, which led to a decline in the Irish population, has constantly fed the flames of Irish hatred", the authors of the booklet told their Wehrmacht readers. "Even before the Great War the Ulster people, English in their attitude, directed their attacks against the fanatical struggle for independence of the Catholic Irish in the Home Rule movement, which then led to the separation of Northern Ireland when the Free State was established."

The recipients of this brisk historical analysis were to be the men of the 4th and 7th German Army Corps under General Leonhard Kaupisch, who in August 1940 was ordered to prepare detailed plans for an amphibious operation against Ireland. The idea's originator appears to have been the newly-promoted Field Marshal Feodor von Bock, whose Army Group, having distinguished itself in the attack on Poland the previous September, had just pushed the British and Belgian armies back to the Channel. Army Group B was now entrusted with the western flank of Operation Sealion - the invasion of Britain - and given the task of securing a beach-head between Weymouth and Lyme Regis. Kaupisch's offensive against Eire was to be an integral part of the attack on England.

The plans for the invasion of Ireland, classified "Top Secret" and "Very Urgent", were distributed in 32 copies by the German High Command on August 8, and at least one set of these instructions - still in its brown envelope bearing the wax seal of the German eagle and swastika - survived the war. It shows that the invasion of Ireland, codenamed Operation Green - *Fall Grün* - was to have been a bold and extremely hazardous affair.

From the French ports of Lorient, St Nazaire and Nantes, an initial force of

3,900 troops was to be landed on an 85-mile front along the south-east coast of Ireland between Wexford and Dungarvan. Having captured the small harbours there - an enterprise which the High Command considered easy "since no substantial resistance is expected in Ireland" - lightly armed infantry and commando units were to fight their way up to 30 miles inland. Operation Green proposed that the front line of this bridgehead would run from Gorey on the Wexford-Dublin road, across the 2,610-foot height of Mount Leinster above Borris in County Carlow, through Thomastown, County Kilkenny, to the small market town of Clonmel in County Tipperary and thence to Dungarvan.

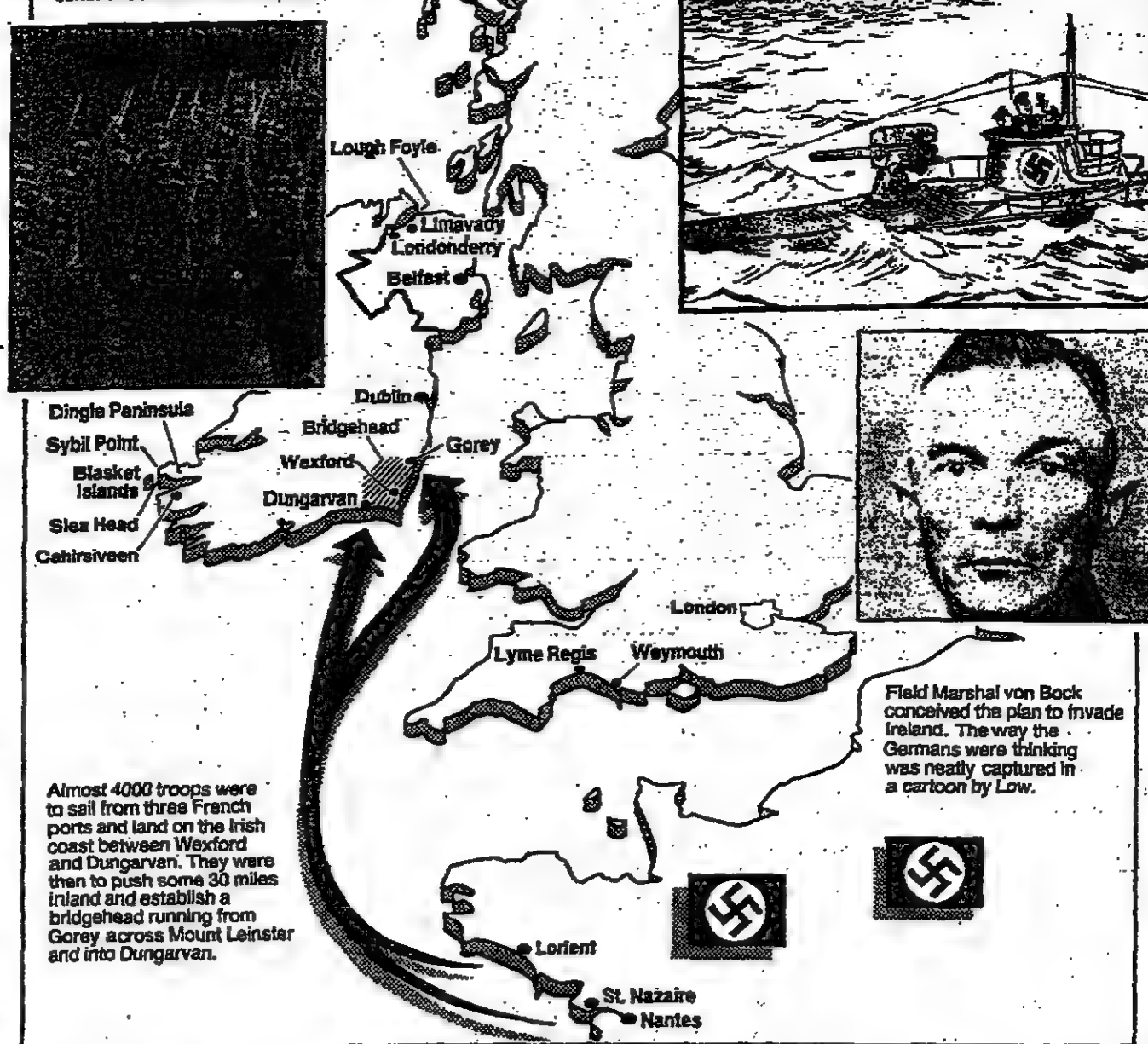
Artillery and commando squadrons and a motorized infantry battalion were to take part in the first landings along the Irish Coast. A bridge-building battalion, three anti-aircraft companies and several "raiding patrols" - to probe Irish military defences - were also to be included in the initial assault, while reserves from the German 61st, 72nd and 290th Divisions were to take up occupation duties in the Gorey-Dungarvan bridgehead once it had been established. A limited number of horses would also be carried aboard the invasion fleet.

But there was a fatalistic if not doomed quality about the invasion plans. The German naval officers who were to transport the troops from France to Ireland could not have been comforted by the instruction that "preparations for landing in England must be given priority over the Ireland (Green) operation." They were told that French vessels with French crews, as well as local fishing boats, German naval tugs and ferries could be used for training the assault troops, but that such ships were "scarce". Indeed, when the German Navy began its search for suitable vessels around the ports of north-western France, they found only two steamships - the French Versailles and the German Eule - together with three small coasters, the Meibello, Clio and Franzine. This was a poor start for an operation that would involve up to 50,000 men.

The High Command anticipated that there would be communication difficulties between ships during the long crossing to Ireland and from ship to shore after the first invasion force had landed; they recommended the use of "lamp signals, signalling rods, megaphones, etc" while observing radio silence. Special life-saving equipment would be carried aboard the invasion craft and Kaupisch's planners were warned "to avoid taking the crews of sinking vessels onto fully-manned ships, since this would place them in danger of capsizing". Every vessel was to carry anti-aircraft weapons and constitute a self-contained fighting unit. Clearly the High Command expected the Royal Navy and the RAF to intercept its Irish invasion fleet.

German troops of the invasion force would be covered by the Luftwaffe's West of France Air Command and - so far as sea defence was possible - by warships of the German Navy from Brest. The plans for Operation Green frankly admitted the possibility of

The helmets look German but the troops are Irish. The Nazi generals expected "no substantial resistance" and planned to use lightly-armed infantry and commando units in their assault.



Almost 4,000 troops were to sail from three French ports and land on the Irish coast between Wexford and Dungarvan. They were then to push some 30 miles inland and establish a bridgehead running from Gorey across Mount Leinster and into Dungarvan.

failure, in which case "landing at another point must be attempted". Withdrawal should take place "only in an extreme state of emergency".

Only three German divisions would take part in the first stages of the Irish invasion: 40 were scheduled to participate in Operation Sealion. It is possible that the German High Command never seriously intended to invade Ireland and there is evidence that they deliberately publicized Operation Green to stretch British defence preparations in advance of Sealion. Major General Walter Warlimont, Deputy Chief of the Wehrmacht High Command's operations staff, noted that on June 28 an instruction was issued "to the effect that in order to mislead the enemy all available information media should spread the word that we were preparing a landing in Ireland to draw the net around England tighter and reinforce the 'siege'". But the extent of the planning and the distribution of the Green documents suggest that the Germans were contemplating a real landing in

The plans show that Operation Green was to have been a bold and extremely hazardous affair

the south-east of Ireland, if only to draw off British troops in Northern Ireland who might otherwise be sent to southern England to oppose Sealion.

There can be little doubt that the Germans did eventually plan to occupy the entire British Isles, and when their newly-formed Military Economic Staff for England - *Wehrwirtschaftsstab England* - met at the beginning of September 1940, they included Dublin among the six German administrative headquarters that were to have been set up in the two islands. Kaupisch continued his preparations for the Irish invasion throughout September, and only in mid-October - when Sealion had been postponed - was he allowed to slow the pace of his exercises, continuing them only as a pretence.

In the following month, however, Hitler took a personal interest in an invasion of Ireland, prompted perhaps by an Abwehr interception of British

radio traffic that suggested the British themselves were about to attack Eire. On December 3, 1940, he ordered Admiral Raeder's naval staff to investigate the chances of occupying Ireland. According to the record of that day's Führer Conference, Hitler believed that "a landing in Ireland can be attempted only if Ireland requests help. For the present our envoy [Eduard Hempel, German minister in Dublin] must ascertain whether he wishes to have his military equipment supplemented by captured British war material, which could be sent to him in independent ships...the occupation of Ireland might lead to the end of the war."

In fact, the Germans had already offered de Valera's government quantities of British guns captured at Dunkirk - the Irish prudently turned them down - and all Raeder's men could offer Hitler was the possibility that German blockade runners carrying weapons and ammunition might get through to Irish ports in the winter

community founded upon equality for all, but associates with this an extraordinary personal need for independence which easily leads to indiscipline and pugnacity."

The handbook also contained an extremely detailed description of the Ardara power station on the Shannon, together with a map and diagram that was presumably furnished by the German architects who designed the plant. The list of Irish cities and towns which the volume also included was an amalgam of population figures and industrial geography although it failed to mention important military details. Tiny villages like Ballyhaunis ("County Mayo, 1,103 inhabitants") and Dalkey ("County Dublin, 4,135 inhabitants, bathing and residential area on southside of Dublin Bay, station and garage") were awarded a place in the list although Castle Town, the nearest mainland berth to the military harbour at Berehaven, was omitted.

Some of the information was absurd. The German authors disclosed, for instance, that Magherafelt in County Londonderry was "a town with a big rectangular market square in the centre from which roads go to the north, south, east and west directions", an observation that was unlikely to be of immediate use to a German tank commander under fire. Other facts were tantalising in their obscurity. In Dublin, for example, there was a "project for a munitions factory, unknown if completed yet" in which a German officer would be more interested than the whereabouts of the Guinness brewery or the Jacob's biscuit factory.

The separate volume of photographs that accompanied this booklet contained 120 illustrations, most of them copies of postcards or newspaper pictures. These may have given the German Army a general idea of the sort of country they were invading but would have been of little military use.

Picture 19, for instance, shows a thatched cottage in the Kerry mountains outside of which a hen, two cows, an old woman in a long skirt, a small boy and a man in a bowler hat stare suspiciously at the camera. The caption announces: "People and animals often live together in one or two-roomed huts when there is no stable." Picture 74 is even less instructive. Captioned simply "Bogland in County Roscommon", it depicts a moss-covered wall amid mud and puddles, all partially obscured by heavy rain.

None of this material was likely to commend itself to diligent members of the Wehrmacht. The photographs of Ireland's cities might have proved

more useful. There is an aerial view of the centre of Belfast with the monumental facade of the City Hall dominating the surrounding rows of dark office blocks and the shams of the old Markets district. A picture of "Stadt Cork, St Patrickstrasse" probably gave a fair enough impression of daily commercial life in Eire's second city, with automobiles and petrol buses driving between pavements crowded with shoppers.

But an illustration captioned "Dublin, Stadthaus mit Liffeyfluss" would have been somewhat misleading. Apart from two electric trams negotiating the corner of O'Connell Bridge, the only vehicles to be seen are horse-drawn carriages. An elegant phaeton is approaching Bachelors Walk and the vessels moored in the fog opposite the Customs House down river are all sailing ships. The picture appears to have been taken at the end of the nineteenth century.

Of far less innocent provenance, however, were the illustrations to be found in two booklets. Photographs of the Irish coastline came from Luftwaffe photo-reconnaissance units and from snapshots apparently taken before the war by German tourists with an unerring eye for beach heads. Three hundred and thirty-two photographs and coastal profiles were used to illustrate maps of a 1:250,000 scale, together with details of spring tides, geological formations and possible military routes inland from the beaches.

The Irish authorities were well aware that the Germans were photographing their coastline. On December 29, 1940, a Luftwaffe plane flew low over Dublin, coming under fire from Irish anti-aircraft batteries outside the city; on another occasion a German plane that crash-landed in Eire was found to have a photographer on board.

The Luftwaffe paid particular attention to possible invasion beaches. A three-section photograph was also assembled of the lower half of Lough Foyle in Northern Ireland, a fold-out plate that covered the land and sea shore from the outskirts of Londonderry almost to Magilligan Point. The pictures show the long, flat beaches north-west of Limavady and two RAF airfields - Eglinton and Ballykelly - as well as the Belfast-Londonderry railway line. Black lines had been superimposed on the airfields to emphasize the runways.

Several other photographs in this collection were of the Kerry coast. One illustration of the Blacket Islands was from a picture postcard, with magnetic north overprinted in the foreground. Several pages contained frames of Sybil Point and Sleaz Head on the Dingle peninsula; at least one of these photographs was taken from the sea, perhaps from a submarine, and five from the shore-line on a small camera. Drawings and sketches of the Blackets were also included with mileage charts. These may have been the work of a German brass band which stayed in the town of Cahirsiveen on the south side of Dingle Bay in 1937; local people remember the musicians "drawing maps" as they relaxed in fields above the sea between performances.

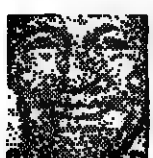
But while German intelligence work on Ireland was detailed, thorough and only occasionally careless, no attempt was made to conduct any serious analysis into the politics of the partitioned island. The Gestapo had prepared for themselves a 100 page handbook on Britain, *Informationsheft GB*, which contained an assessment of political groups and organizations in the country. There was a brief reference in it to the Communist Party of Eire but otherwise no mention of Ireland was made.

A separate 350-page *Sonderjahrgangliste GB* comprised a list of those people in public life who lived in Britain and who were to be arrested after occupation. Churchill's Irish-born confidant Brendan Bracken - later to become British Minister of Information - was on the list and so was "Claude (sic) Cockburn, 56 Jahr alt, Korrespondent", but no other Irish name appears, not even Craigavon and his ministers in Belfast. Nor was a corresponding handbook published for the Gestapo on Eire or Northern Ireland.

If Ireland was to be occupied, it would be as a means to the invasion of Britain, an object of military but not political attention. Doubtless the Gestapo would have arrived in Dublin and Belfast once the island was in German hands, but it was important only as the back door of Britain's defences, a spring-board for the final blow against Germany's only surviving European enemy.

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The last time I saw Venice . . .



Miles Kingston is on holiday. As I write this, I am sitting at a cafe table in Venice.

Well, no, that is not strictly true. As you read this, I am sitting at a cafe table in Venice. I am actually writing this at a desk in Notting Hill before I leave for Venice on a week's holiday, so that next week (or now, as you would call it) I don't have to sit down in Venice and write a piece.

Of course, I could simply have taken a week's holiday from *The Times*, but unfortunately I forgot to warn my editor in time for him to find a replacement. It was all so much easier when this column appeared on a page with the obituaries, where they could simply find more people who had recently died to replace me with. Apparently this page

doesn't work like that. As it is, here I am writing a piece instead of being on holiday. But at least there is one advantage to this.

Since I have not gone to Venice yet, I cannot write a piece about Venice. As I sit now at my cafe table, I reflect that as I wrote this piece several days ago, you are spared yet another outpouring on the wonders of Venice, the shame of it sinking into a sea and the greatness of Cipriani's Hotel on the Lido. Who wants another piece about Venice?

And there is a great difficulty in writing about Venice, apart from the fact of not having been there, as I have not, and that is the difficulty of finding an opening sentence. Venice seems to bring out the opening sentence in writers. Was it not Thomas Mann, who opened that depressing guide book with the

NOTRE OVER Miles Kingston

words "Streets full of water. Please advise?" Or was it perhaps Robert Benchley?

Much earlier, the great French humorist Alphonse Allais opened a dispatch from Venice with words that bring back the Victorian era with a sharp shock. "The most striking thing that greets one's first arrival in Venice is the complete and utter absence of the smell of horse manure." It is hard to rival that as an opening. We are used to seeing great European cities full of water these days (last week it was Cologne that was suddenly full of impromptu canals) but the absence of something that is what I should aim for.

I am told by people who can't stand Venice - a secretive but

strong minority - that the most striking thing about Venice today is the complete absence of Italians. That the only natives one sees are those employed to service the tourist armies, and that they all go back to the mainland at night. This may or may not be true, and as I sit here at my cafe table, I have probably worked out the truth or otherwise, but as I said, I am not here yet.

When I said I had never been to Venice, this was not quite true. When I was in my early teens, my father took us all on a trip to northern Italy, but all I can remember from that earlier visit was the complete absence of steam trains, of which I was inordinately fond, and the high quality of the ice creams. It isn't much to build a knowledge of

Venice on, especially as I now see from the map I bought at Stanfords this morning that there is a large railway station in Venice and that if only I had known where to look I would have found any amount of steam trains.

Looking back, I suspect that my father knew, but didn't tell me. My passion for steam engines used to interfere with holiday plans considerably. When we went to Paris he wanted to go up the Eiffel Tower and I wanted to go to the Gare St Lazare. When we went to Edinburgh one year, I took a train out of Edinburgh to Inverkeithing and back so that I could go across the Forth Bridge twice.

Anyway, as I sit here at the table of the buffet in Venice Station - but I am not sure if my present companion will want to spend a morning at

Venice Station, even if I try to persuade her that it is worth seeing the Orient Express arrive, or that I might get a good opening line out of it. Railway station full of water. Please advise. Complete absence of smell of steam. Venice - gateway to the mainland . . .

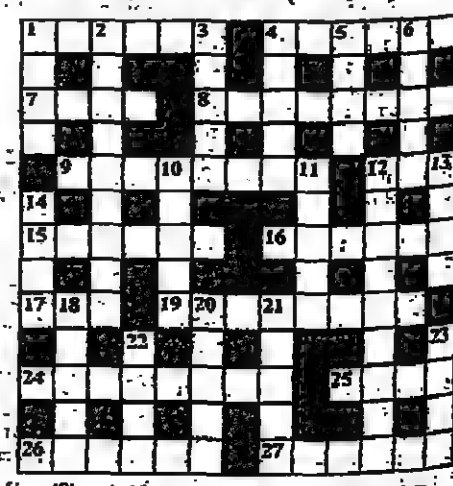
I am not sure I ought to write a piece about Venice at all, even when I have come back and am, after a week there, an expert on the place. I am reminded of that greatest of all openings to all travel books, *By Rocking Chair Across America*, by Alex Atkinson and Ronald Searle. It starts:

"Most travel books about America are written by people who have spent a mere few weeks there. This one is quite different. It is written by someone who has never been there in his life."

Quite so. Walter, another Campari and soda, please.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 42)

- ACROSS
4 Dedicate (6)
5 Percussion instrument (6)
7 Bone (4)
8 Openwork (8)
9 Lacquered (8)
12 Ugly woman (3)
15 Printed cotton (6)
16 Tub (6)
17 Piston (3)
18 Compress (8)
24 Sleeplessness (8)
25 Couch (4)
26 Brief look (6)
27 Defraud (6)
DOWN
1 Smear (4)
2 Wanton destruction (9)
3 Impish (5)
4 Sweet liqueur (5)
5 Cuts grass (4)
6 Artery (5)
10 Mexican Indian (5)
11 Male duck (5)
12 Zodiacal forecast
SOLUTION TO No 41
ACROSS: 1 Gravel 5 Wary 8 Lycee 9 Applaud 11 Phasid 13 Liss 15 Accordion 18 Pint 19 Fall Mail 22 Cassock 23 Wages 24 Oak 25 Tardem
DOWN: 2 Racco 3 Vie 4 Leatherjacket 5 Wrept 6 Realizer 7 Elope 10 Dank 12 Inch 14 Dist 15 Amnesia 16 Epic 17 Flesh 20 Algae 21 Pope 23 Wren



- (9) 20 Small amount (5)
21 Small period (5)
22 Ripped (4)
23 Inevitable result (4)

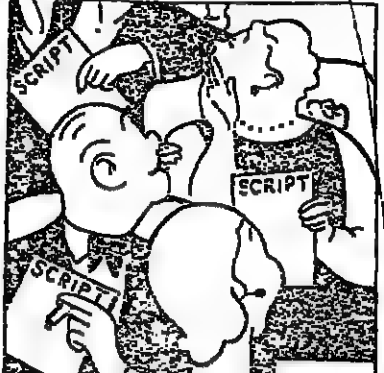
WEDNESDAY PAGE

JOANNA LUMLEY'S DIARY

Whatever would Noel have said?

The rehearsal room is the colour of raspberry yoghurt: a great elephant-coloured curtain hangs over one wall in heavy stained folds, finally drooping sadly on to the mantelpiece. Stacked in one corner are chipped pub tables, two chairs, long upholstered in purple plush and a mass of cardboard boxes. The room is lit by six neon strips; it is indecently dirty and the windows haven't been cleaned for a decade. There is a bright little fire which we feed with coal from a plastic washing-up bowl, and the vast space is heated by about midday.

A bit of a palaver to go to the lavatory, though: it involves keys and padlocks and a sprint through the car park, jump a puddle (and don't forget to lock the door when you leave in case someone tries to steal the aging Adamant fixtures, or worse still, uses them. Bring your own paper, but the rehearsal room



does have three coffee spoons and an electric kettle. You can see through the piano, as its panels have fallen off and the pedals are missing. Every day we strive to reconstruct the elegance and gaiety of Noel Coward and Gertrude Lawrence; as we scuffle through the dust, we smooth our imaginary evening dresses and push our hands into the pockets of phantom dinner jackets. It was ever thus. I suspect it will be ever thus. Simon Cadell, like Coward, turns up in a suit. I wear my oldest clothes. I am ashamed to say, but that's only because I have to sit on the floor.

I met Simon Cadell on a train one Monday two years ago. We spent four hours in a first class compartment arguing, declaring our love for each other, throwing things, hugging, then more arguing; that night we did it all again in front of an audience, and the play was *Private Lives*. The Friday before, a serious leg injury had felled James Villiers, who was playing Elvira. On Saturday, I went on with the gallant understudy, while London was combed for a replacement. Cadell was alerted on Sunday; by some miracle, he learned the three-act play in a day and our only chance to run the lines was during the journey north.

What an extraordinary evening: incandescent with terror, we played through the show, perfect strangers in front of a packed house, whirling each other like hawks. Neither of us can remember much of what went on, but we have already started to embroider the tale. Simon, justifiably, is shrinking the scene time he had to learn it ("Quarter of an hour with the book, then 'beginners, please'"; and so have I). But it's still a grand story.

Much against my better judgment, I agreed to stick my nose into Elvira's to see if I could track down a colleague on a literary affair of some urgency. A man with a Barman expression showed me hurriedly to the door because, under my beautiful dark blue wool Jean Muir coat, I was



wearing trousers (for afore-said rehearsals in scruffy pub room). I was completely in the wrong, of course, but I wish he hadn't looked so wintry as I stuttered my apologies. The same day, I received a letter addressed to Miss Lumley which professed to be a personal invitation to a dinner party. It urged me to bring my wife. What's a chap to do?

Because my old vacuum cleaner (a reconditioned job painted milky green) had started to blow instead of suck, I went out and spent a king's ransom on a new one. The advertisement shows a girl fairly shimmering about the house in a short skirt, and with the many detachable appliances she is able to extract filth from every conceivable crevice - she even Hoovers the curtains. I unpacked the main body of the machine (rather larger than I had expected), fitted the plug and off we went. My, what power! Little unexpected grains of sand sprang up from the carpets and bobbed and jittered in anticipation of being swallowed. I noticed a height adjuster, with pictures denoting length of carpet, bald, crew-cut and waving corn. I snapped it on to medium and set off behind the sofa. The machine, however, had spotted the long-haired rug and seized it with a roar, chewing and growling until its jaws were full.

I disentangled it, switched it to cornfield and followed it down to the junk room. I got at the side of a pile of newspapers, nipping little pieces off and devouring them instantly, and two nice safety-pins disappeared before I could bend down to grab them. I clicked it on to bald and went into the kitchen. It has a special bald attachment on a limp oesophagus (probably for cleaning the bath) but it was difficult to control. I found I had to hunch right over and creep about like Quasimodo, steering it while it fastened on onion skins and rubber bands. It was only when, scooped and exhausted, I crammed it into the tiny broom cupboard that the long stiff tube, which ought to have gone twice round the neck, toppled slowly out. It ain't what you do, it's the way that you do it.



A hitherto undreamed-of occasion for playing *The Murderer Winks* (I described the rules two weeks ago) on stage, during performances of long, slow-paced Shakespearean dramas. Apparently it's an old favourite with actors. Of course, discretion is *de rigueur*; the winks must not be spotted by the audience, and one does have to be reduced to ducking your chin on to your chest for a moment.

Try saying "Peggy Babcock, Peggy Babcock, Peggy Babcock" out loud.

Friday: Shirley Lowe interviews Lana Turner about how stardom upset family life



Foxed: rejected candidate Hugh Simmonds and family

Paul Pickering meets a female master of foxhounds who galloped in pursuit of human quarry - her local prospective Conservative candidate

A-hunting we will go

The head of a large hare hangs on the wall behind her ladyship. It wears the puzzled expression of a creature who is about his own business one minute and the next finds himself fastened to a board in a comfortable drawing room of a Queen Anne country house. Lady Crossman, senior joint master of the Cambridgeshire Foxhounds points out her favourite trophy, a snarling fox head by a window looking out on the family's 500 acres: "There is nothing better than a good hunt," she says with a smile.

Another sort of kill brought Lady Crossman and her husband Sir Peter into the news last week. They flushed a Conservative prospective political candidate Hugh Simmonds from cover when they heard his wife was a member of the League Against Cruel Sports and they savaged him ferociously. His adoption as a candidate, which he thought a formality, was promptly blocked, proving that pre-Tebbit Tories of the shires still have clout. One almost expected to find the bemused Mr Simmonds's head on the wall by the hare.

Mr Simmonds still cannot believe what happened. "I was not merely astounded but stunned. What they wanted was an MP and his wife would gallop to hounds. I tried to explain my view to Sir Peter and Lady Crossman for three quarters of an hour. The decision is not a reflection of the constituency, which is one third industrial."

His wife Janet added: "I don't

like foxhunting, but if someone wants to do it, that is up to them. We had thought Hugh's adoption was just a formality." Instead, the unlucky Beaconsfield solicitor glimpsed his party's killer instinct.

Foxhunting for the Crossmans is their whole life, a mannered game governed by strict rules of fair play, decency and common sense. Lady Crossman was hunting almost as soon as she could walk: "I followed the hunt on a donkey at the age of three, and then I had a little pony called Blackie. Yes, I was blooded. I think all children want to be blooded."

To see a kill is proof of one's horsemanship

"Blooded" is the foxhunting ritual where the faces of children are daubed with the blood of the freshly killed fox: "My only reservation," continued Lady Crossman, "was that it was pouring with rain and the blood washed off by the time I got home to show my father."

But neither Lady Crossman nor Sir Peter could be described as intentionally cruel or insensitive. Lady Crossman has been joint master of the hunt for 23 years, and followed in the footsteps of her mother Kathleen, who hunted side saddle, and was master for 13 years. Sir Peter fitted in three years as



Hunter: Lady Crossman of the Cambridgeshire Foxhounds

master between being chairman of Watney Mann and of the National Union of the Conservative Party.

When the hapless Mr Simmonds tried to placate Sir Peter by saying he shot 1,000 starlings a week in his suburban orchard, he would only have inspired distaste. It was almost as absurd as telling a matador one is a dab hand with the slug pellets.

Most huntmen are keen conservationists. "I love to see a fox, especially nibbling at the blackberries. I like watching a litter of cubs playing in the summer," said Lady Crossman. "I don't applaud on seeing one killed, but if it is killed fairly and squarely, by the rules and by the hounds, then I am pleased, partly because I am attached to the hounds. It is a paradox."

"People say we like seeing a fox torn to pieces. Very few people who go hunting actually see the kill, it's only if you are in front." To see a kill is proof of one's horsemanship.

"The only real justification is the hounds kill the fox instantly. Poison is horrible; I have seen hounds poisoned with strychnine and it's a slow agonizing death."

"We are cousins," said Lady Crossman, aged 66, who married Sir Peter, 73, just before the last war. They spent the rest of it trying to get together, hunting all the time: "I was sent to Palestine with the cavalry," said Sir Peter. "I used to ride with the Rowle Vale pack, the only one in Palestine. Then there was the Exodus foxhounds out of Bag-

dad. We used to hunt jackals of course." Lady Crossman was a Foreign Office cipher clerk and worked in Morocco and Beirut before eventually meeting Sir Peter in Cairo, where unfortunately there was no hunting.

Since the turn of the century women foxhunters have enjoyed equality with men: "My mother was a pioneer," said Lady Crossman who employs three full-time hunting staff. "We kill 25 brace of foxes a year", she adds proudly.

Politics is taboo: "We never ask anyone their politics." Could Tariq Ali ride with the pack if he wanted to? "One would know his views," said her ladyship drolly. "The socialists want us to drag

There are no hunts behind the Iron Curtain

hunt without a fox but its far too slow. It is the uncertainty of a hunt that's important, not knowing where you are going and the speed. There are no hunts behind the Iron Curtain," which to the Crossmans is the ultimate restriction of communism. "There was a good pack of hounds used on wolves in Poland before the war," recalled Sir Peter.

"I don't think anyone will ever stop us hunting," said a determined Lady Crossman. An awful lot of foxes would agree with her.

It was such a little lump - the size of a pea. . . and a petit pois at that

"Hello? Oh, I'm very well, thank you. I had a touch of cancer last week, but I'm fine now. How are you?" This is not a sick joke. It is actually how I feel about this boggy disease - not much more than a bout of flu. But then I was lucky. I found it before it was too late. It was such a little lump, really. Only the size of a pea - and a petit pois at that. My doctor thought it could be dispersed by injection, but the consultant said not. If there were anything nasty there, the cells could be disseminated. It had to be cut out - a little operation, nothing to worry about.

It was not until I was inescapably tucked up in St Bartholomew's Abernethy ward that the alarm bells rang. The consultant form was not only for the removal of the lump, but also for "any further surgery" found to be necessary. I added "apart from a complete mastectomy" before I signed. "I don't care what you find," I said. "I want you to wake me up and tell me about it first. If I come round and find I'm lop-sided I won't be able to cope."

So it was a couple of days after the first operation that the lab reported that a small section of tissue had proved malignant and they couldn't be sure they had got it all out. A radical mastectomy was advised. It was the only proven cure. I was told, and most women were so frightened of the disease they felt relief at knowing it had been cut out for ever.

Do they? I don't believe it. I could not have borne to meet myself in the bathroom mirror every day for the rest of my life and be disgusted by my mutilation. It has nothing to do with vanity or husbands or lovers, present or potential. It is a question of being comfortable with oneself, of wearing one's body without thinking about it, like a well-worn anorak.

FIRST PERSON

By Beryl Downing

So there was much sympathetic discussion - and that is one of the characteristics of Barts that make it such an outstanding teaching hospital: everyone from consultants to junior nurses, however busy and however overtaxed, was prepared to give time to listening as well as to doing - not an attribute of every NHS hospital.

A segmental mastectomy was agreed, followed by six weeks of radiotherapy - a combination of treatment, increasingly accepted to be as effective as a radical, provided the lump is in the outer segment of the breast. If the tumour is no bigger than two centimetres, 60 per cent of women suffer no recurrence, which is why early diagnosis is so vital.

The surgery was performed not only with medical skill, but with such cosmetic care that in less than a week I was assured that eventually there would be nothing more noticeable than "a slight asymmetry".

Then came the radiotherapy. I was one of the first patients in the country to be treated on the new American Varian machine which is said to improve treatment through greater reliability. Again I had the greatest possible care, with constant attention to the effects on skin, blood and bones, plus an encouraging cheerfulness from staff and fellow patients which made me feel I was an honorary member of a very informal club.

I was warned that I would feel tired, and I did, but I reckoned if my body couldn't

cope it would let me know, so I went straight from my daily treatments to the office and had care for the first time to benefit from working in a man's world. Break an arm and they will sympathize. But if a woman behaves in an irrational way because she is tired and touchy, for whatever sound medical reason, she is labelled menstrual or menopausal and treated kindly but without intellectual respect.

It was precisely the need to disprove that attitude - to myself if to no one else - that helped me to survive. There is no time for minor skirmishes of self pity when there is a larger war to win. The worst thing anyone said to me - a friend's husband, thinking I was being sympathetic - was "Take some time off - nobody is indispensable". The best was when I told my doctor I had agreed to the segmental mastectomy. "I'm glad", she said briskly. "I had it done 12 years ago."

I am convinced that a positive, up-beat attitude such as hers helps to exorcise the disease as well as the fear by encouraging more open discussion. If other people are embarrassed by the word it is the fault of those of us who have had the disease. We should share the good experiences, not the bad. I was much more frightened by other people's dire warnings than by anything that actually happened.

Of course there are much more severe cases than mine. I shared 10 days of their lives in hospital and I shall always remember and admire the selflessness and strength of spirit which so many of them showed. It helped to convince me that, given the right medical help, the rest of the battle is won in the mind. Some have faith, some have courage, some, like me, are just bloody minded. What does it matter what you call it, as long as it works?

THE TIMES COOK



Shona Crawford Poole

Pork and lean

far before the common way of cooking it.

Rillettes of pork
Makes about 880g (1½ lbs)
900g (2lb) rindless belly of pork
110g (4oz) pure lard
1 sprig thyme
1 bay leaf

Quatre-epices, a mixture of ground cloves, ginger, nutmeg and white pepper
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Cut the pork into smallish cubes about 3cm (just over 1in) square and put them in a heavy based pot or casserole with the lard and three or four tablespoons of cold water. Cook the meat, covered, on a very low heat indeed for about six hours. The right heat is just below boiling point and when the meat is done, it is meltingly tender. Not all the fat will liquify.

Drain the meat from the liquid fat and reserve the fat. When the meat is cool enough to handle, shred it finely, using your fingers or a pair of forks to break it up. Return it to the pan with 150ml (¼ pint) of the liquid fat, being careful not to include the stock. (This rich stock makes an excellent gravy base for another occasion.) Add the herbs, spices and salt to taste, seasoning the meat highly as the flavourings will fade a little when the rillettes are served cold. Cook the meat for another 15 minutes or so, stirring it from time to time to blend and distribute the flavours.

Put the meat into sterilized pots or jars and press it down well with the back of a spoon. Cover with a layer of the fat previously strained off and leave until quite cold. When the fat has set, run another layer of fat over the top to ensure a good seal, and when that too has set, cover the jars with foil of plastic film. Store in a cool place, or the refrigerator. Carefully made rillettes will keep for up to six months.

Serve rillettes like paté with toast, or better still, with well-made crusty bread. To sterilize glazed stoneware or porcelain pots, or glass jars, you can boil or bake them. In either case the pots should be well-washed first.

To boil them set them in a large pot, immersing them completely in cold water. Bring to the boil and boil them for five minutes, then leave to cool in the water. Drain and dry on freshly boiled tea cloths.

To sterilize jars by baking, set them, open end up, on a baking sheet and place in a cold oven. Heat the oven to cool (150°C/300°F, gas mark 2) and leave the jars at that heat for five minutes or until needed. Fill the jars as soon as they are taken from the oven.

Potted hough makes beefy sandwich filling, or a topping for thick, buttery toast. It is also good served in slices with baked or sautéed potatoes and a salad. The heat of the potatoes amplifies the taste of the meat.

Potted hough
Makes about 880g (1½ lbs)
900g (2lb) boneless shin of beef
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 tablespoon unflavoured gelatine (optional, see recipe)

If your beef is cut from the end of the leg nearest the hoof it will have plenty of gelatine rich gristle to melt into the meat during its long, slow cooking.

Put the meat, in one piece, in a heavy pot and cover it with water. Bring to simmering point, cover and leave it to cook slowly for five or six hours, or until it is meltingly tender. Add boiling water as necessary to keep the meat immersed. Drain the meat and set aside to cool. Strain the stock back into the pan, skim it of fat and reduce it to about 600ml (1 pint) by fast boiling. If the reduced stock does not feel sticky on your lips, the beef has too little gelatine to set the dish well and the extra gelatine should be added now.

Chop the meat finely, against the grain, discarding any pieces of visible skin, fat or gristle. Return it to the pan and season it to taste with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Season generously to take account of the effect of serving the meat cold. Bring the meat to the boil then pour it into one or more spotlessly clean bowls or boxes. Plastic refrigerator boxes make a loaf shaped mould for easily sliced meat.

Potted hough keeps for several days in the refrigerator but does not freeze successfully because of its high gelatine content.

THE TIMES DIARY

Red terror

Sir Harold Wilson has been touring the Soviet Union pouring oil on waters troubled by the tidal-wave expulsions between London and Moscow. He was not helped by his almost obsessive references to "Trotsky" in the Labour party. Sir Harold told Soviet leaders from Moscow to Tashkent that the greatest threat to British democracy came from followers of Trotsky "who must be turning in his grave at the thought of what is done in his name."

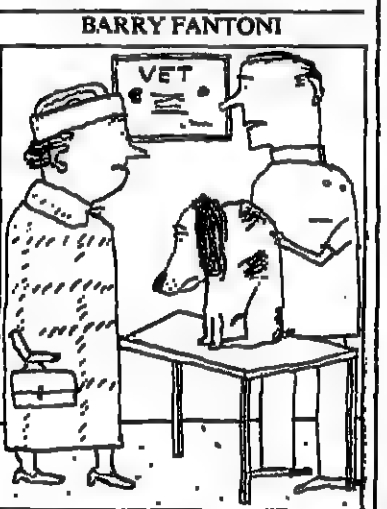
"Of course," he added, "you know all about Trotskyists, and as far as I am concerned you can have them back." The Russians, for whom the name of Trotsky is anathema, were agitated at the thought that the heretic Stalin had murdered poses a greater threat to capitalism than all the might of Soviet communism.

● Sir Harold also revealed his formula for not consuming too much vodka at Soviet receptions. He begins his toast: "I was once president of the Royal Statistical Society." If he can't say it, he has another drink. If he can't, he doesn't.

Wormcatcher

I got to the office early yesterday, and so was the only person available to take a call from Des Wilson, chairman of Friends of the Earth and the Campaign for Leadfree Air. "You would think I would be soaking in champagne, wouldn't you, after the Government's decision to phase lead out of petrol?" he cried. "Far from it. I was in at 5.30 am, organizing the Green Rally for April 27. There's a lot to do when you're filling Central Hall, Westminster, with 3,000 people twice a day, with meetings to follow in Leeds and Bristol, businessmen's seminars, a lead conference... And still he finds time to ring the papers. I have, I thought, been having more encouraging starts to the day."

● A South American airline captain addressing his passengers before take-off: "Government regulations require us to warn passengers of our safety equipment..."



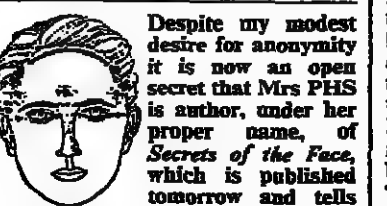
Barry Fantoni
"If he's only off his food, I suggest you give him a rum with the Berkeley Ham."

True to life

Twenty-three portraits of American rock stars are to be donated to the Theatre Museum's permanent collection, although the originals were destroyed by thieves who stole them in 1979. David O'Connell's paintings of Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Little Richard, Fats Domino, Bill Haley and others had been put on to colour transparencies by a fine art photographer beforehand. From the slides, five inches by four inches, the Vision Gallery was able to recreate the pictures in highest quality photographic print at their original size, up to eight feet by five feet. Before the pictures go to the Theatre Museum, it is hoped to put them on show as part of the Britain Salutes New York festival at the Songwriters' Hall of Fame on Times Square, but a sponsor to make that possible is still being sought.

Irish spoken here

A PHSout has been enjoying an Irish break in London. He started by arriving at King's Cross and finding a British Rail luggage trolley marked: "For passenger use only. Not to be removed from Euston." He is staying at the London Tara Hotel; Tara is Irish for earth, and the hotel has a very Irish flavour. The room service menu offers Tralee broth and Paddy's whiskey, and on the in-house telephone directory it says: "For emergencies dial 888." The guest asked the telephone operator to help him place a call to Senegal. The response was: "Would that be in Ireland, now?"



Despite my modest desire for anonymity it is now an open secret that Mrs PHS is author, under her proper name, of *Secrets of the Face*, which is published tomorrow and tells all there is to know about Siang Mien, a 2,000-year-old Chinese system of reading character from the face. Several people have imperiously inquired if it does not undermine the credibility of her work that she should have married me after having full opportunity to scrutinize the PHSiography. Of course it does not, but I was tempted to use a similar argument myself when making domestic attack for shilly-shallying and general wetness. "It says here," I said, producing my wife's analysis of my features from the current *Good Housekeeping*. "It says here - 'can act decisively.' "Can", shrieked the PHSperson in dudgeon. "Can - but won't!" PHS.

Why can't a serviceman sue?

by Jack Ashley

On Sunday, November 16, 1980, Martin Kettick, a 23-year-old fitness enthusiast, was abseiling down rocks in the Lake District. When he was 40ft from the ground someone cut the rope from which he was suspended. His injuries were horrific.

He suffered a broken spinal chord, fractured skull and punctured lung. Now, three years later, he is a paraplegic, doubly incontinent and mainly confined to a wheelchair. In the circumstances, and in view of his lost earning capacity, he naturally thought of exercising the usual right of suing for negligence. But Martin Kettick is denied that right because, when he broke his back on a training exercise, he was a British serviceman. As a corporal in the Royal Marines he, like all other servicemen, had signed away his rights on enlistment.

This was to have a profound effect on his financial future. Had he been able to prove in court that a non-commissioned officer had been negligent in cutting the rope before checking his safety, he would probably have been awarded compensation of up to £300,000. Instead, in addition to the equivalent of an industrial injuries payment, and a gratuity of £3,553, he was dispatched with an invaliding payment of some £47 a week.

The reason was that Section 10 of the Crown Proceedings Act, 1947, prevents a serviceman from suing the Crown or another serviceman for negligence.

This is an acceptable doctrine for servicemen in battle. When they sign on they incur and accept risks of serious injury or death in action. But it is a monstrous deprivation of rights for servicemen engaged in day-to-day activities in normal times. The

Act fails to make the obvious distinction between the position of servicemen on the rare occasions they are in action and when they are not.

Section 10 of the Act is vigorously, but unconvincedly, supported by the Ministry of Defence. It claims that there is no reasonable and easily definable dividing line between military action and other activities. Any serviceman could soon put them right about that.

Ministers argue that if a serviceman was allowed to sue for negligence it would endanger discipline. But discipline has little or nothing to do with legal redress. The Ministry of Defence have acknowledged that all serious injuries and accidental deaths are formally investigated and that disciplinary action can, and does, follow.

'When they sign on they accept risks of serious injury or death in action. But it is a monstrous deprivation of rights in normal times'

There is no reason to believe that discipline would be affected if an injured serviceman had the right to sue for negligence. But to buttress the discipline argument, ministers claim that conferring such legal rights would create anomalies, blithely disregarding the basic anomaly that servicemen are denied a right given to other comparable public servants. If police or firemen are injured, they get the same invaliding pension as servicemen, but in addition they can sue for negligence.

As a last resort, ministers point out that servicemen may not be able to prove negligence. Maybe not. But perhaps some of them can, and that should be for the courts to decide. To justify Section 10, the Ministry of Defence would have to prove that there was no negligence in the Forces, and since this is patently absurd, they should allow the courts to decide when it occurs.

In Martin Kettick's case, a senior NCO was severely reprimanded for his part in the accident. While that is not conclusive proof of negligence, it is important evidence which ought to be asserted by a court.

Section 10 was enacted in 1947, just after a devastating world war, and it is perhaps understandable that individual rights were not accorded the highest priority. Today, despite commitments such as Northern Ireland, or involvements such as the Falklands, our servicemen protect us as a deterrent force rather than an active one. In these circumstances, Section 10 is an unjust and unnecessary part of the Crown Proceedings Act. By supporting it the Ministry of Defence is acting against the interests of individual servicemen. For no real gain, except administrative convenience, it is creating resentment among disabled ex-servicemen.

Ministers should seek forthwith the restoration of the legal right to sue for negligence, except during military action. If they are unable to bring themselves to act in this reasonable way, they should at least establish the principle of generous discretionary payments to servicemen whose lives have been shattered by the negligence of others.

The author is Labour MP for Stoke, South.

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

Pass the broken phone, I want to pray

I see that British Telecom is about to offer the public the consolations of religion in the form of a Dial-a-Prayer service. Oh, good; I shall be first in the queue for it, and my prayer will be that British Telecom should let me have a copy of the L-R London Directory, for which I have been asking regularly and frequently for more than five months, and that they should send somebody to replace my broken telephone, which I have now been asking them to do, at even more frequent intervals, for three months.

Other, more glib, folk believed that when the telephone and postal services were separated, one or the other, or even both, would become, if not efficient (too much to hope for), at any rate less implacably indifferent to the wishes of the paying public. Not I, though; whatever else I am suffering from at their hands, it is not disappointment for no man can be disappointed not to get what he never expected. A Dial-a-Prayer service British Telecom can provide; special phones in the form of Mickey Mouse are readily available; I dare say that you can ring up for fairy-tales in Urdu if you know the right number; but one thing we shall not get from them is the smallest trace, on the part of the people who run the thing, of a willingness to do the work they are paid for, and for which they fleece their customers.

There is a crucial qualification in that paragraph: it is the people who run the thing who can't be bothered to work for their wages. Whenever a telephone engineer manages to extract the news that his skills are needed by a subscriber, it is my experience that he provides them, cheerfully and expeditiously, just as the destruction of the postal service has been achieved elsewhere than at doorstep level; who ever met an unpleasant or incompetent postman?

My telephone problem, incidentally, is hardly the most intractable ever heard of; the damaged instrument is the plug-in type, so all they need to do is to bring a new handset and plug it in. But for those "in charge" of British Telecom, there is no distinction between great problems and small, for their response to news of a need on the part of the

customers is identical whatever the nature of the need: amusement, tinged with genuine outrage, at our presumption. This, of course, is the attitude they clearly took with them (leaving plenty behind) when they left the Post Office; that noisome institution has always believed that a customer is an incontinent nuisance, and the sooner all the nuisances can be got rid of the quicker the Post Office can go back to sleep.

Do not comfort yourself with the thought that their attitudes are the exclusive province of the public sector, or if you do, allow me to introduce my laundry, light Brook Green, of west London. On January 10 they lost the belt of a rather pretty cotton bathrobe in purple check thus rendering it useless at a stroke, for it

'I find myself writing notes of thanks to accompany my payment of the bill - merely because I have got what I paid for'

has no buttons or other fastenings. My letter of gentle remonstrance was first denied ("We're trying to trace it") and when admitted, ignored. It is true that at some time in the history of the matter they telephoned to say that they had made me up a belt "to match", in white towelling, but when I reminded them that the bathrobe was neither towelling nor white, they apologized most charmingly and thereupon entirely lost interest in the subject; at any rate I have never heard another word, and my letter remains unanswered. And I am still owed a rather pretty cotton bathrobe in purple check.

I have noticed, and I have noticed my friends and acquaintances noticing, that when an individual, organization or firm with whom we have dealings of a purely commercial character carries out our instructions, or meets our expressed wishes, correctly and quickly, it is matter for delight, praise and discussion; we ring each other up (those of us with telephones that are not broken, that is) to announce the

amazing news that Messrs. Shortland and Sydes have managed to deliver the fish-fingers at their very first attempt, or that we have heard of a firm of solicitors who not only understand their clients' legal problems but frequently solve them. Indeed, it goes further; I find myself - and in this, too, I am not by any means unique - writing notes of thanks and congratulations to accompany my payment of the bill, merely because I have got what I wanted, ordered and paid for.

Paid for? I am not asking anything of British Telecom that is not in my contract with them. I have paid them good money for, among other things, a telephone-directory, and I am being swindled out of more money in the form of the telephone calls I am making to try to get them to honour the contract. As for the broken instrument, I am not so foolish as to believe that they will repair or replace it free, nor do I propose to insist that they should. But I believe that I am justified in requiring that they should repair or replace it, and should stop ignoring my requests that they do so. And, *mutatis mutandis*, I am not so foolish as to think that a laundry will never lose its customers' garments, but nor am I so feeble as to find acceptable the behaviour I have described.

The clue lies in the attitude I have described: the widespread feeling of surprise and pleasure when some body does what he or she is paid to do. The decline of efficiency is widespread and very marked, and is not to be confused with nostalgia; whether summers used to be warmer or caviar oilier depends only on truly subjective judgments, but although it is difficult to measure efficiency it is not quite impossible, and I have no doubt at all that it has materially diminished.

Why? I must brace myself, in giving a tentative answer, for barrow-loads of accusations that I wish to send small children up chimneys (first inducing rickets in them) and revive the practice of flogging miscreants at the cart-tail before having them transported to Australia. All the same, I believe that the almost complete elimination of any penalty for inefficiency has materially contributed to its



increase. In organizations like British Telecom and the Post Office it must now be virtually unthinkable for anyone to be rebuked, let alone demoted, for failing without excuse to carry out an allotted task, and elsewhere, to lesser but still very significant extent, the same picture can be seen.

No sane person, surely, can do anything but deplore the apparently immutable truth about human nature which decrees that human beings need disincentives for failure as well as incentives for success. But since it is apparently immutable, it can do nobody any good to behave as though it is not only immutable, but already muted.

A year or two or three ago, I had a run-in with the folk who run Heathrow. (Mr Compositor, if you wish to insert an "in" in "run", please feel free.) My complaint was that I had filled in no fewer than four of the cards they provide at the airport for comments, complaints, queries and suggestions from the passengers, all four asking the same question, but that I had never received any reply at all, though I had put my name and address, as requested, on the card. I therefore deduced that the cards were simply thrown away when collected, and having deduced it, said it.

The charge was denied with heat - nay, with fervour. Shock, horror and amazement were expressed at the very idea. Their one desire, they insisted, was to attend with all possible dispatch to their customers' wishes. The cards, they insisted, were treated as though each one was a Rembrandt drawing. The staff were instructed to wear clean white gloves before handling them. It was a tragedy of an inexpressibly sad nature that all four of mine had been unaccountably lost.

I was much impressed by all this concern. But I noticed that nowhere in the defence and explanation was any interest expressed in just what I had put on the cards, and from that day to this they have never troubled to inquire what it was that had been bothering me. I rest my case.

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Teddy Taylor

Pastures new for the rates man

The story of agricultural derating is a very strange one. It is clear that no government of any party would choose to reverse the arrangement whereby agriculture alone among British industries makes no contribution whatsoever to the costs of local government, but what is not so clear is why the rest of industry and commerce is unwilling to use the agricultural exemption as a means of pressing government to reform the rating system, which is undoubtedly harsh and inequitable and is driving many firms towards bankruptcy.

Agricultural derating was introduced in 1929 as a modest gesture to alleviate appalling agricultural depression at a time when no other means of support was available. Rates at that time were a modest burden, but since then rates have soared and the structure of agriculture has been revolutionized.

But far from reducing the concession, Parliament in 1971 extended the definition of agricultural buildings so that the concession now also applies to what are loosely referred to as factory farm operations (like chicken battery systems) as well as to buildings used by farm syndicates and cooperatives. Soon after that, case law extended the exemption to fish farming as well.

The cash involved in the concession is now very substantial indeed. The official estimate is that rateable values of around £200m are involved and that the cash loss to local authorities is in the region of £250m.

The continuance of the anomaly is puzzling in view of the repeated calls for change. The Layfield Royal Commission of 1976, for example, stated that there was "no good reason why agricultural derating should continue. Even the recent all-party select committee, which was primarily concerned with domestic rates, went out of its way to call for further study."

Some of the reasons advanced by governments for retaining the status quo have been illogical to say the least. The last Labour government argued that to rate agriculture would involve substantial time and expense in deploying valuation officers. A strange argument indeed, when we consider that there is no shortage of resources in employing armies of valuation officers to chase round private dwellings to value sums of between £5 and £20 to valuations to take account of minor improvements or modifications.

So agricultural derating is as secure as the monarchy. Yet the rest of British industry has been reluctant to use the agricultural anomaly as an argument against its own intolerable rates burden. Industry and commerce have to bear more

than a half of the entire rating burden without having any say over the amount raised or any control over the way the money is spent.

Few can deny that rates act against the principle of regional development because there are numerous examples of high rates being levied in areas suffering from above-average unemployment. Nor do rates for industry have any regard to ability to pay - there is no rebate system in industry and commerce.

But the agricultural exemption opens up a whole new field of argument. Our main industries are protected from foreign competition by very modest import duties ranging from nil to about 10 per cent. But agriculture enjoys massive tariff protection: CAP guaranteed prices, on average, are about twice the world level. In the case of sugar the current import levy is about 200 per cent.

Most industries have to fight with tenacity for a market for their products at home and abroad and there is no guaranteed level of sales. But in the case of agriculture, with the exception of quota limitations on commodities like sugar there is a firm and costly guarantee that all items produced will be purchased through intervention. If the products cannot then be sold, they are disposed of at knockdown prices in the Third World or in the Soviet Union - the current daily cost of such subsidies for the EEC as a whole is £7m per day. In the case of perishable products like horticulture the central purchasers destroy the products if there is no market for them.

Industry enjoys only a limited amount of government investment or other aid, and much of this is concentrated in development or special development areas. By comparison, there is a wide range of special aids for agriculture throughout the nation.

So why should industry and commerce not enjoy the same rating privileges as agriculture?

The simple way to achieve this would be for the share of rates contributed by industry and commerce to be raised through national taxation; it would mean, of course, higher national tax levels, but at least the cash would be raised in a fairer way.

The injustices of rating have carried on for too long. They are crippling a major slice of industry and commerce. And it seems at least reasonable that our factories and shops should be offered the same privileges as have been enjoyed by agriculture, one of Britain's most protected and prosperous industries.

The author is Conservative MP for Southend, East.

James Curran

Putting BL and Britain back on the road

The dispute at British Leyland's Cowley plant reveals a tough, old fashioned management at work. It was triggered by the guns-to-decision to withdraw the "wearing time" Cowley workers have had for 40 years without offer of financial compensation. This was the culmination of a series of authoritarian measures in which "wets" were weeded out from management and a leading shop steward sacked, ostensibly for co-authoring a pamphlet that argued against management plans. Since 1980, shop-floor participation in decision-making at BL has been pared down to an insulting and provocative minimum.

The angry response of Cowley workers to the management's ultimatum on wearing time reflects the accumulation of pent-up anger and frustration that has turned even the exceedingly moderate and conciliatory local union leader, David Buckle, into an angry militant. It also reflects the sharp increase in demand for BL's cars which, if sustained, is likely to encourage BL's workforce to try to turn the tables on management from a position of greater bargaining strength.

This Indian summer style of industrial relations is undermining the British economy. A succession of comparative studies - the latest being that of Dr. Sig. Prais - shows that output per worker in manufacturing industry in Britain is between 20 per cent and 30 per cent below that in France and West Germany, and even lower by comparison with the United States.

This is not simply the consequence of backward technology, and the historically low level of investment in British industry. Output per worker with comparable plant and equipment is generally lower in Britain than in other developed industrial economies. A major cause of Britain's poor performance is, therefore, the way in which work is organized and performed.

The government's response to this problem has been to assist management to impose decisions on their employees by undermining in a variety of ways the position of trade unions. The evidence suggests that this strategy has not succeeded in increasing efficiency relative to our trading rivals. According to government statistics, output per person hour in manufacturing industry has increased by only 3.9 per cent since this government was elected, compared with 9.7 per cent during the corresponding period of time that preceded it. While the disappointing performance under this government is partly attributable to the cyclical movement in output, there is no empirical justification for believing that there has been any kind of breakthrough in productivity.

Since previous administrations have also not been very successful in promoting greater industrial efficiency, it is worth considering a new approach. The need for fresh thinking is underlined by the wealth

of academic evidence, thoughtfully reviewed by Geoffrey Hodgson in the *Cambridge Journal of Economics* (1982) which shows that workplace participation in decision-making generally increases productivity.

The new social contract unveiled last month by the TUC and the Labour Party in its joint manifesto, *Partners in Rebuilding Britain*, was examined by the media largely in terms of what it said about incomes policy. This explains why the most interesting thing about it - the fact that it represents an historic shift away from state socialism to decentralized economic democracy - was largely overlooked. Whereas previous Labour governments have seen economic planning largely as a centralized state activity, Labour's new programme would give ordinary people a say at every level of decision-making in the economy.

In the first place, it would give workers guaranteed access to company information usually denied them, the right to be consulted on key decisions and the right to be represented through trade unions at all levels of the management hierarchy, including a 50 per cent representation of the board of directors of large companies. This proposed revolution in industrial relations would be gradual one in that it would be based on existing union and management structures and would be developed at the pace desired by the workforce of different companies.

This workers' charter at company level is part of a wider power-sharing plan in which a new ministry and a national planning council (a body set up by the government) would be responsible for coordinating development plans for major companies, industries and the economy as a whole between government, management and unions. In this way workers and management representatives from the grass roots upwards would be involved in taking major strategic decisions, over output, incomes, investment, prices and profits in a process of negotiation that expanded the normal agenda of collective bargaining.

These new proposals have been attacked by some right-wing Labour MPs who are committed to old-style state planning, and by some left-wing unionists who fear they lead to the incorporation of militants into the capitalist process and introduce a conventional income policy through the back door. But the new proposals enjoy none the less widespread support among both the left and the right in the Labour movement.

Those who reject this programme on the grounds that it would give the unions more power are, merely giving vent to the visceral antagonisms that now shape the disastrous industrial relations at BL.

The author is Editor of New Socialist.

George Brock puts the Alliance electoral carve-up in perspective

How the SDP may have won the golds

When the fractious negotiations between the Social Democrats and the Liberals formally concluded the Alliance constituency allocation last year, common wisdom held that the Liberals had won the lion's share. But had they? In an analysis to be published on Friday, two political scientists challenge that wisdom.

John Curtice of Nuffield College, Oxford, and Michael Steed of Manchester University think that the SDP is better placed to win a higher proportion of seats than was originally thought. They analysed the allocated seats not only against the Liberal results in 1979 - and the Liberals were granted the great majority of seats in which they had been closest to victory, the so-called "golden" seats - but also against the major party votes in the 1979 general election.

The comparison revealed that the SDP was allocated a disproportionate number of constituencies in which the major party holding the seat had a relatively small share of the vote. Of 87 Labour seats where the winning vote came to less than half the votes cast, the SDP will contest 61 and the Liberals 26. The SDP has been allocated two-thirds of the seats in which the Conservative lead over Labour was narrowest in 1979.

If the balance between the major parties remains level in these marginals, the proportion of the vote necessary to win will be lower than in seats where an Alliance



Professor Ivor Crewe (centre): did he get it right in weighing the balance between supporters of David Steel and Roy Jenkins?

candidate is starting from second place in what is effectively a two-party fight. Curtice and Steed cite Roy Jenkins's victory at Hillhead with 33.4 per cent of the vote in a three-and-a-half party contest, and contrast it with John Pardoe's defeat in north Cornwall in 1979 with 44 per cent of the vote.

They suggest that local Liberal negotiators may have been dazzled by the superficial attractions of seats where the Liberal vote was above the national average last time but

overlooked the fact that it may not be easy to push up further. In doing so, they may have allowed the SDP a larger share of seats which may in the end be better prospects.

The SDP negotiators were working with the help of an analysis written by Professor Ivor Crewe of Essex University of opinion polls in 1981 covering 40,000 voters. The results provided the most detailed picture then available of the social geography of Alliance support. Matched against the final seat

allocation, it shows that the Liberals had indeed walked off with the best slice of constituencies with a high previous Liberal vote. But the SDP had the larger slice of seats in which Crewe's figures suggested there was an above average chance of an improvement on past Liberal performance.

Curtice and Steed also suggest that when the results come through, the allocation may not turn out to have been all that important in determining the balance of power in a future Alliance parliamentary party. They say that the geographical spread of the Alliance vote and the relative strengths of the major parties will have more influence on the numbers than the negotiations.

Their calculations suggest that the larger the national Conservative lead over Labour, the fewer seats the Alliance will win if their overall vote is anywhere within the expected range. They conclude: "The more the Alliance vote is simply the Liberal vote at a higher level, the more likely is a Liberal lead in seats. The closer the Alliance vote comes to the sort of pattern shown in the 1981 opinion polls, the more likely it is that the SDP's disproportionate share of certain types of constituency will guarantee it parity."

Turning dreams into reality: the division of constituencies between the Liberals and Social Democrats, by John Curtice and Michael Steed, is published in *Parliamentary Affairs*



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THE WAGES OF FUDGE

The heavyweights of the trade union movement have been doing some arm-twisting to good effect at the Scottish TUC conference. It is now generally accepted that the conference will vote against the idea of wage restraint under this or any other government. But nothing will be done at Rothsay, a cast shadow over the proposal for a National Economic Assessment that was put forward in the policy statement, *Partners in Rebuilding Britain*, published last month by the TUC-Labour Party Liaison Committee.

The arm-twisting was necessary because the Scottish TUC is traditionally a left-wing stronghold and the statement has been seen as providing the embryo of an incomes policy, which is anathema to the left. Without a little pressure from the right there would in all probability have been some dispute over the statement at Rothsay. The British trade union leaders, however, believe that it is critical to preserve the credibility of the assessment proposal in its run-up to an election. The difficulties north of the border this week have a wider significance for the Labour movement.

How far it is right to interpret the document as the first step to another incomes policy is debatable. It certainly provides a basis upon which an incomes policy could subsequently be constructed, but it does not itself

provide for such a policy. It could just as easily be regarded as an innocuous form of words designed to create the illusion that there would not be a wage explosion under a Labour government.

The document proposes that there should be a regular National Economic Assessment, drawn up by representatives of the government and both sides of industry, which would produce "an agreed statement on the framework within which decisions will be made on investment, prices, employment and pay". It goes on to say that "this will mean that bargaining can take place in an atmosphere of wider recognition of what is needed for national economic success".

It might be that in such an atmosphere there would be agreement on the need for national guidelines or norms on pay; but then there might not. Nothing that Mr Foot said when launching the document suggested that there would be. It might be that in such an atmosphere of collective responsibility there would be a general recognition of the need for a somewhat less precise form of pay restraint. That would certainly be the hope of the Labour ministers; but it would be no more than a hope. Whether it was realized would depend upon the attitude of trade union leaders at the time

and their ability to carry their own members with them in any degree of restraint that they thought desirable.

Under a Labour government a deliberate policy of wage restraint would be more necessary than it is now because some of the other disciplines would be removed. The principal reason why the unions have come to accept a much lower level of pay increases has been fear of unemployment. Whoever is in office over the next few years, unemployment is likely to remain disturbingly high. But whereas the present Government has pursued tight fiscal and monetary policies, a Labour administration would indulge in massive reflation.

This would be inflationary, even if wages were kept under control. Yet such official liberality might well seem a positive invitation to a wage explosion. In such circumstances, Labour ministers would no doubt soon be calling for restraint, but these would be conditions in which it would be harder for union leaders, whatever their own personal assessments, to persuade their members to respond. So, while the left may reasonably fear that Labour economic strategy would lead to renewed calls for an incomes policy, the rest of us would have more reason to be afraid of the return of inflation.

WHO WILL POUND THE LONGEST?

Many criticisms have been made of Senator Barry Goldwater in the past, but few people would have thought him the man to be intimidated by terrorism. He himself cannot claim to have thought out the implications of what he was saying when he reacted to the news of the carnage in the American embassy in Beirut by saying, "it's high time we bring our marines back... If there's the more marine killed I don't know what we would do next."

One cannot be sure who is responsible for the attack on the embassy. The trails of violence in Lebanon are so thickly crisscrossed that one probably never will be - which, of course, is precisely why Lebanon is such a popular place for those who seek to make political points with violence but without acknowledging their handiwork. In this case the most likely suspect is an Iranian or pro-Iranian group, presumably acting with a degree of Syrian connivance.

But there cannot be much doubt that the object of the outrage was to produce just such a reaction as Senator Goldwater's, and fortunately most American leaders have been wise enough to see this. Senator Howard Baker voiced a widespread view when he said,

despite his original misgivings about sending US forces to Lebanon, that a decision to pull them out now would "send an unfortunate signal to terrorists". Indeed, to speak as Senator Goldwater has is virtually to invite further attacks on the multinational force. To withdraw the force now would imply a lamentable lack of resolve on the part of the United States.

That would have dangerous implications throughout the world, and especially in the Middle East itself. American prestige there is already low, after the failure of the Reagan peace plan. That perhaps can be shrugged off to the extent that it was only a proposal and the Americans can always blame the intransigence of those who have rejected it. But in Lebanon the American commitment goes further. The Reagan administration has set itself the definite goal of obtaining the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon and the restoration of full authority and sovereignty to the Lebanese state.

The multinational force is there as an earnest of that commitment, to help raise the Lebanese security forces to the level required and to maintain security for civilians in the area of Lebanon from which foreign

forces withdraw. Because it has this clearly defined mission, and above all because it is there by invitation of the Lebanese government, the multinational force is not itself a "foreign" force in this sense.

"Foreign forces" means those which, whatever their original pretext for being in Lebanon, have now clearly overstayed their welcome. Palestinian forces, Syrian forces and Israeli forces in particular. Iranian forces now deserve mention as well, although they are not there in sufficient strength to mount an independent challenge to Lebanese authority. They are there by courtesy of the Syrians - and, since last August, the same could be said of the Palestinian forces. Syria and Israel are the effective occupying powers. If the multinational force leaves before they do it will not have fulfilled its mandate.

America reacted very properly to the attack on her embassy by attending yesterday's session of the Israeli-Lebanese withdrawal talks at Khalde. Of course there must be a reaction on the technical security level as well. But the only appropriate political reaction is to maintain, and if possible increase, the pressure for a withdrawal of foreign forces.

THE IMBALANCE IN BASKET THREE

The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) resumed yesterday at a time when the "free flow of people and information" promised under its principles far less in evidence than the compulsory flow of expelled spies, diplomats, journalists and tourists. The Soviet delegation has not surprisingly intimated that it regards as an "acceptable basis for negotiation" the compromise agreement presented before the recess by the ten neutral and non-aligned nations, a proposal criticized by its West as inadequate on human rights. Basket Three covering cooperation in humanitarian fields was included in the Helsinki Final Act signed at the Helsinki summit in 1975 only after strong Soviet opposition, and its principles have continued to be violated in both letter and spirit by the Warsaw Pact regimes.

The expulsion from Leningrad of the British tourist Edward Chick, accused of spreading literature hostile to the Soviet system, was not related to the recent series of expulsions by both East and West, but to a determined KGB campaign to suppress dissidents associated with the courageous effort to form a free-trade union movement in the Soviet Union. The information on low living standards, poor working conditions and political protest by workers, which has reached the West through the movement's clandestine bulletin, is a major KGB target for suppression. Tight

border controls and the jamming of Western broadcasts to the USSR are aimed at preventing the further dissemination of such information to the Soviet population, not yet widely "infected" by the Polish disease.

That martial law has failed to effect a cure acceptable to Moscow is evident not only in the police harassment of Lech Walesa. The Polish authorities fear that May 1st will be the occasion for genuine worker demonstrations in support of Solidarity rather than state-controlled processions, and the massive police presence in the streets and squares of Poland is intended as a strong warning to Solidarity organizers. The Polish media have again been gagged, and honest journalists have been dismissed or have themselves resigned.

Last week security police in Warsaw arrested four more people involved in clandestine Radio Solidarity broadcasts, and secret printing shops were discovered in several cities. Radio Solidarity went on the air a year ago this month with brief broadcasts on current events and reports on the persecution of free trade union organizers and sympathizers. Several arrested broadcasters have already been sentenced to prison terms of four years or more for broadcasting information "that might have fostered social anxiety and public unrest"; few good journalists would remain at liberty were such an attitude to become

widespread among governments.

There has been little real "tit-for-tat" in the recent cycle of East-West expulsions. France and Britain expelled Soviet agents posing as diplomats and journalists; the USSR has expelled an air attaché and a journalist doing no more than pursuing their normal duties. Of course, a perceptive journalist such as Mr Anthony Robinson of the *Financial Times* sending sound information and analysis on the realities of life in the USSR is always at risk of expulsion for what the authorities term "impermissible activities".

The subsequent removal from Britain of a Third Secretary at the Soviet Embassy who was not accused of spying was retaliation of a sort. But a firm response is the only sure way of making the Soviet leaders understand that they have gone too far in promoting the free flow of British secrets. The Soviet withdrawal of a visa to visit the USSR this week from Lord Bethell, the Conservative MEP well known for his condemnation of the Soviet record on human rights, is a different matter. Here too the emphasis is on suppressing human contacts between East and West Europe. Meanwhile, in the USSR dozens of members of the Helsinki monitoring groups are serving long prison sentences for publicizing violations of the CSCE by their government. There is still much to be discussed at Madrid.

have the twofold advantage of allowing more competitive matches and at the same time ensure batting skills were developed with the added time available.

Yours faithfully,
CONRAD FREE,
Woodville,
Lea,
Malmesbury,
Wiltshire.
April 12.

County ups and downs

From Mr Conrad Free
Sir, I read with interest the article by your cricket correspondent (April 12) and would like to add not only my support for four-day championship matches, but an extra dimension to the debate.

Many championship matches are rendered meaningless due to the fact that only a limited number of

counties are ever in contention for the championship.

Very simply, I would admit one more county to the championship and divide it into two divisions, each of nine teams. Each team would play the other teams in its division on a home and away basis, with two sides being promoted and relegated each season.

Each county would thus play 16 four-day county games under this system which would, in my opinion,

BL lessons still to be learned

From Mr G. H. B. Cattell

Sir, It is almost 10 years (June 13, 1973) since you published my letter on production-line monotony in the car industry. Judging by the present outbreaks of unrest in the motor industry we have still much to learn about the art of managing people employed on work which most of us would find not merely monotonous but intolerable, without personal commitment to the objectives and participation in the rewards of achievement.

The management of BL must be right in striving for the elimination of working practices which raise unit labour costs above those of their competitors. Management objectives and strategy cannot be questioned if profit is the purpose, as it must be. It is surely management tactics which have led to the present impasse.

Sir Michael Edwards has come and gone, after considerable achievement but without leaving much evidence of that style of management which can achieve the desired results, whatever the social and economic conditions. That is a management approach which rests ultimately on the consent of the management, not on the consent or approval of the trade union officials.

The principal function of a trade union is to offer its members protection against exploitation by employers. Trade union officials are dependent on a substantial membership. The appeal of union membership is greatest where employees fear exploitation, or where they do not feel identified with the purpose of the enterprise and involved in its aims and progress.

The present confrontation is between management and unions. The solution is to be found in cooperation between management

and other employees; in today's jargon, through employee participation and involvement.

The principal shareholder in BL is now the state. The taxpayer therefore has the right to ask whether his investment is in the hands of managers sensitive enough and skilful enough to obtain an acceptable return on that investment. The massive loss of production in the last few weeks must put that in question. It will now take many months of working shifts, without the three minutes washing-up time allowance, to restore output to the level it would have reached without this dispute.

The key to employee participation and involvement is employee interest. If Britain is to have a competitive car industry the competing firms must have shareholders and managers able to interest employees in the company's performance against foreign competitors. Consent to change in working practices is much more likely from people involved in the purpose of the enterprise, and people who know they will participate in its success. Neither confrontation nor cooperation between management and trade union officials will secure the future of BL. Whatever the outcome of the dialogue between senior management and trade union representatives, the issue will turn on whether or not the majority of the people in BL believe that the success of their company will bring reward for them. It must surely be time to involve managers and managers as shareholders.

Yours faithfully,
G. H. B. CATTELL,
Little Chenevry,
Yalding,
Kent.
April 18.

Venereal disease

From Dr John Seale

Sir, Is there a new VD epidemic? London Weekend Television (April 8) said it is almost out of control in London, where nearly half the 500,000 new cases per year in England are treated.

According to the Chief Medical Officer of the DHSS in his annual report, *On the State of the Public Health*, "the number of new attendances at the (VD) clinics has been increasing since the early 1950s and in 1980 there were for the first time more than 500,000 new cases" (p.50 and 52). The tables in the annual report (p.53) show that the number of new cases was 458,979 and not in excess of "half a million" as the Chief Medical Officer wrote in the text (p.53). Furthermore, the DHSS has taken a "new attendance" to be synonymous with a "new case". A case, however, is not a person. If a person attends the clinic on one occasion only with thrush, a wart and a crab louse the DHSS classifies this as three new cases and also, surprisingly, as three new attendances.

The resulting double-counting in individual clinics averages 30 per cent (*British Journal of Venereal Disease*, 1981, 57,285). The 459,000 new cases represented 353,000 new persons attending clinics; 107,123 were cases of a sexually transmitted disease called "other conditions not

requiring treatment in a centre", which is "bureaucratic" for no sexually transmitted disease.

These new cases were physically healthy but often terrified people visiting the clinic for reassurance or as contacts of other patients.

Ten thousand and forty three cases had genital herpes, a virus infection similar to labial herpes (cold sores) but, because of media-induced anxiety, now a common cause of intense distress, marital disharmony and sometimes death by suicidal depression.

The only two diseases which can be correctly categorised as VD, because of their mode of transmission and their disastrous effects if untreated, are gonorrhoea and syphilis. There is no new epidemic of these diseases.

In 1980 there were 54,433 new cases of gonorrhoea, a decrease of 1,000 on 1971, and fewer than in the early 1940s. In 1980 there were 4,059 new cases of syphilis, an increase of 1,000 over 1971, but less than one fifth of the 1940s figure. The incidence of VD in the UK has remained remarkably constant over the last decade and is less than it was 40 years ago.

The new VD epidemic is a myth. But the fear of VD is not; and fear itself can be deadly.

Yours truly,
JOHN SEALE,
78 Harley Street, NW1.
April 13.

Aid to Third World

From the Directors of Christian Aid and the Catholic Fund for Overseas Development

Sir, Professors Bauer and Yamey say (April 11) that aid cannot significantly promote Third World development and does not relieve poverty in the Third World. May we take issue with both of those statements?

What do Bauer and Yamey mean by "aid"? If they mean that the volume of aid from all sources is insignificant by comparison with the need for it then few would cavil at their statement. But this does not seem to be what they want to argue. Rather, they seem to argue that because some resources are misdirected and because some countries have been able to achieve high rates of growth without large aid flows it follows that "aid cannot significantly promote... development".

The conclusion simply doesn't follow from the argument. Where domestic savings and/or foreign exchange are the major constraint on economic growth (which Bauer and Yamey evidently equate with development) then the provision of the resources to breach this bottleneck will - and historically have - increase the rate of economic growth.

Bauer and Yamey dispute the power of donors to "effectively question the economic policies and

general conduct of the governments receiving aid". Having taken part in those discussions from both sides of the table we can only say that that is simply not true. So far from conditionality being politically "labour" bilateral and multilateral donors are, in fact, able to change economic policies. Agricultural pricing policies in Zambia and the subsidies paid to nationalised industries in Sri Lanka are both well known, well documented cases. Why do Bauer and Yamey want to dismiss them?

That too much official aid has not had an immediate effect on the very poorest people in developing countries is something that we would condemn as readily as Bauer and Yamey. But that is an argument about the quality of aid, not about the fact of aid. It is also a more complicated argument about the distributional impact of marginal expenditures about which generalisation is exceedingly difficult. One might reasonably expect two professors of the LSE to acknowledge both the complexity of the issue and the ambiguity of the evidence.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES ELLIOTT, Director,
Christian Aid,
JULIAN FILOCHOWSKI,
Director,
Catholic Fund for Overseas Development,
PO Box No 1, SW9.

Saluting New York

From the Director General of The British Council

Sir, In fairness to the British taxpayer and to the British Council I must point out an error in Christopher Thomas's article on "Britain salutes New York" (*Spectrum*, April 13).

Enormous credit is due to Mr Lloyd-Jacob and private enterprise for raising between £3m and £4m to mount this arts festival, but unfortunately Mr Thomas is incorrect in stating that not a penny has come from the taxpayers of Britain.

The British Council, on behalf of the British taxpayer, has contributed £80,000 to the festival to help ensure that it is truly representative of British art today. Without this modest input some of Britain's more adventurous contemporary arts, which are less attractive to business sponsors, would not have been represented.

British Council support has ensured the appearance of the London Contemporary Dance Theatre, the Fire of London, the Actors Touring Company, the Joint Stock Theatre Company, the Mike

Westbrook Orchestra, the Stan Tynes Quartet and a variety of contemporary art and craft exhibitions. They will reflect lively, humorous and creative aspects of Britain.

In addition the British Council has subsidised the Henry Moore exhibition and its financial support for foreign tours by both the Royal Ballet and the London Symphony Orchestra has ensured their presence in New York.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN BURGH, Director General,
The British Council,
10 Spring Gardens, SW1.
April 13.

War widows' visits

From Mr D. T. Downer

Sir, The cost of transporting war widows to other foreign places is a considerable cost of the 1939 war and should be met at once, although 30 years late, whilst there are people who wish to go.

Yours faithfully,
D. T. DOWNER,
13-14 Little Britain, EC1.
April 17.

Lack of reserve in the Armed Forces

From Mr K. D. Jamieson

Sir, Your second leader ("Uniform opportunities," April 15) makes the important point that, compared with other Nato countries, Britain's Armed Forces lack reserves to back them up. You express the hope that the young people lucky enough to get a place in Mr Heseltine's new scheme could, although only half-trained, form the basis of a reserve force in depth.

If war should come the main requirement for a large body of people with some, but not professional, military training is likely to be in supplementing the defence of Britain's home base. There thus seems to be a link between Mr Heseltine's scheme and the imaginative proposals recently advanced by Lord Hill-Norton and others for the creation of a volunteer part-time Home Defence Force. Those who have had their year's training would be the natural cadres, if they so wished, for this new force.

It is not enough to "respond to a national call to arms" once battle has been joined. To be effective - and to have any deterrent effect - home defence has to be organized in advance. The logical next step for the Government, therefore, is to build on their present scheme by implementing the Defence Begins at Home proposals on a pilot-scheme basis.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH JAMIESON,
Mill Hill House,
Bucks Green,
Rugby,
West Sussex.
April 15.

From Mr Garry A. Eile

Sir, I am saddened by the enthusiasm of your leader (April 15) for the Government's proposed military service opportunity for the young unemployed.

The problem of youth unemployment which gave rise to this idea demands sincere and urgent attention without any doubt. However, is the non-military sector of our

society so bereft of opportunity now that military training, however augmented, is seen as yet another hole into which we can place this embarrassing, wasted generation out of sight?

I am willing to believe that there is some sincerity behind this proposal, but I also suspect that its relative economy played an equal part, not to mention the consistency such an idea shows, "character-building" as it may be, with Mrs Thatcher's yearnings for Victorian values.

It is, I believe, a reflection on a Britain which now depends heavily on a defence industry favoured to the detriment of the civil sector. We have also won a "war", and for some the elation has overshadowed the grief.

These are all factors which feed militarism and to offer military training to our young unemployed is in keeping with such a society.

The real question is, when this generation of young people has passed through this new scheme, will they have any more chance of utilising any trades they have learnt? Or will they follow the thousands from other such schemes and be left with only their disillusionment?

Of course they will also know how to use a gun; but who will the enemy be?

Yours sincerely,
G. A. EITLE,
67 Greenore Street,
Belfast.
April 15.

From Dr Margaret E. Wood

Sir, We are concerned about the increasing number of criminals who carry arms, yet we are proposing to train annually 5,000 unemployed young men and women in the use of weapons and then release them on the community after a year.

Yours etc,
MARGARET E. WOOD,
11 Roundwood Drive,
Welwyn Garden City,
Hertfordshire.
April 19.

Politics and CABs

From Mr John Ross

Sir, I am the "local chairman" referred to by Gerard Vaughan when he told the House of Commons (Parliamentary Report, April 13) about his measures to control the national Citizens' Advice Bureau. He mentioned me because I had resigned my chairmanship over the increasingly political stance of the central organization of the CAB.

Since then some leading lights in the CAB have accused me of "slandering" the organization. I wish to repudiate this allegation.

Like thousands of other volunteers I have worked in CAB for very many years and two members of my family were paid workers of the agency in London. I would hate to see the organization smeared or denigrated.

My criticism is limited and very specific. It is made to help and not to undermine the CAB. Workers at the local level are devoted and excellent, and judging by what many of my colleagues say, this specially

includes Joan Ruddock, whose name, mysteriously, has become connected with this business.

It is the group of people who run the Greater London and the national level who are diluting the function. I do not doubt that they are sincere in their belief that many problems brought to the CAB might be mitigated by legislative changes. Furthermore, I believe that if they identify such needs it is proper that they should draw attention to them. But if they want to campaign for them they should take off their CAB hats and instead don party rosettes or pressure-group badges.

There are many vehicles for political evangelism. CAB should not become yet another one. It has other, more delicate functions and I believe they should be paramount; chief among them is the direct dedication to the client, which is what I believe CAB is all about.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ROSS,
7 Overhill Road,
Purley, Surrey.
April 16.

Message of 'Gandhi'

From Lady Stansgate

Sir, The distinguished film *Gandhi*, with the awards and the discussions following on the relations of Britain with India, reminds me of a relevant conversation at which I was present many years ago in Delhi.

Mr Speaker Mavalanka of the Indian Parliament and my husband, who as William Wedgwood Benn had been Secretary of State for India from 1929-1931, were discussing with hindsight the early years of the civil disobedience campaign. My husband spoke of the distaste and reluctance with which the Labour Government of that day had imprisoned the Mahatma and countless numbers of his supporters in the necessary interests of public order, while they themselves unsparingly supported the ultimate success of Congress for self-government. When he spoke of this attitude as one widely shared here at home, Mr Mavalanka declared it had been at the heart of the whole matter.

I quote his generous words: "Gandhi was inseparable from the British. A dictator would have crushed him at the outset".

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET STANSGATE,
10 North Court,
Great Peter Street, SW1.
April 13.

ILEA budget

From Mrs Frances Morrell

Sir, David Walker gives a singularly misleading account of the Inner London Education Authority's budget in his article on April 12.

In claiming that there are more staff but fewer pupils he mentions the fall in school rolls, but fails to take account of the fact that ILEA is not just a school authority but also has to provide help for the increasing number of older teenagers for whom education offers an alternative to unemployment. In further and higher education ILEA provides a regional service for the whole South-east and we are planning to serve several thousand more further education and adult education students next year.

He also fails to mention something which was spelt out clearly in inner Londoners in the ILEA newspaper from which he gets his information - that if central government had restored its rate-support grant to the authority this year the ILEA rate would have been cut by more than 6p. ILEA is the only education authority which does not get any rate-support grant from central Government.

David Walker also ignores the newspaper's explanation of why education is more expensive in inner London than elsewhere. To quote the Government's own edu-

cation inspectors: "The ILEA is faced with a combination of problems to an extent probably unmatched elsewhere in England and Wales."

In fact the authority's vigorous response to challenges, such as these - overcrowding, poverty, a high proportion of children whose first language is not English and children from one-parent families - is costing ratepayers about one extra penny on the rate precept.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCES MORRELL,
Deputy Leader, ILEA,
The County Hall, SE1.

Christians and Jews

From Mr Jacob Freund

Sir, For clarity's sake, there was a touch of anachronism in your otherwise excellent leader ("Jesus was a Jew," April 2) in applying a modern, essentially secular term, based on racial discrimination, namely antisemitism, to anti-Jewish attitudes and deeds instigated by the Church through the centuries.

Deplorable as it may be, the Christian anti-Jewish dogma presupposed the humanity of the Jew by encouraging him to convert, that is, rejecting, as it were, his faith only.

Antisemitism, whether that of Christians or others, assumes an inherent difference or inferiority in the Jew which cannot be altered.

Yours faithfully,
JACOB FREUND,
Yarnon Manor,
Yarnon, Oxfordshire.

Voices off

From Mr W. G. Hodgkinson

Sir, If Mr Alan Tiffin's prediction of the loss of public telephones under private ownership, published in today's issue (report, April 13), turned out to be true, the effect in London anyway would be scarcely perceptible.

As every would-be user knows, many of the kiosks are so well hidden as barely to qualify for the description of "public", and when found it must be better than an even bet that the equipment will be found to be out of order. As to the annual loss, even a fruit-machine unable to accept coins from willing customers would lose money.

Compare this disaster area, for it is nothing less, with the States, where the privately run system provides its customers most liberally with kiosks which are not only visible, but can generally be relied upon to contain equipment which works, and it is clear that Mr Tiffin has picked the poorest of bases on which to attack the concept of privatization.

Yours faithfully,
W. G. HODGKINSON,
38c Marylebone High Street, W1.

Despite continuing economic worries and the wettest winter on record, Hongkong is learning to live with the prospect of reverting to Chinese sovereignty in 1997, when the 99-year lease on the economically vital New Territories expires.

The stock market has recovered to a considerable extent from the knock it took last year when Mrs Thatcher went to Hongkong after a visit to China, where she apparently infuriated the Peking leaders by asserting that the 19th century treaties ceding the territory to Britain were "valid in international law". The Chinese contend that they were imposed by force on the tottering Manchu Dynasty.

After a few panicky weeks, when many Hongkong people started looking serious at ways of emigrating and getting their capital out, and the Hongkong dollar was effectively valued by 12 per cent with still hope of recovery, it became evident that Peking was not planning any early or drastic change in Hongkong's economy and life style.

After the heated denunciations of Mrs Thatcher's statements, even down to the assertion that Britain had a "responsibility" towards the people of Hongkong, the Hong leaders saw the economic damage they had done, and tried to right it.

A mood of sweet reasonableness has replaced the earlier prickliness, as the Chinese official media have gone off their way to assure Hongkong people that it will be they, not cadres and soldiers from Peking, who will run the place but in a more controlled manner.

Some expatriates have wondered whether Peking would care to extend the lease (which it does not officially recognize in any case) with or without payment of rent, which has never been demanded in the past. But this seems improbable, given the fact that political "face" is the main reason for insisting on reversion of the sovereignty they claim to possess already by right, even if they are not exercising it.

It was unfortunate that Mrs Thatcher's visit coincided with a delicate phase of the internal campaign to rid the Chinese leadership of superannuated revolutionary veterans, leftist sympathizers, time served, and people guilty of abuse of privilege.

Mr Deng's critics, including some top military commanders, might have been likely to see him discredited for taking too soft a position over historically emotional issues such as Hongkong and Taiwan. The indispensable mark of a Chinese patriot today is a refusal to accept that the territorial division of China can be tolerated indefinitely.

The storm over the sovereignty issue came on top of Hongkong's leanest, business year since the 1973 world oil crisis. It is having more than usual difficulty in marketing the manufactured exports which are the basis of its prosperity.

The vastly overhauled property boom of the past few years has predictably burnt itself out, and the blame for many bad debts rests with the banking system which all too eagerly fuelled it. The Government has not helped by dropping the plan for a new airport and ocean bridge, which was previously touted as a symbol of its own confidence in the territory's future.

On the bright side, there was a surprisingly large turnout - more than 30 per cent of the electorate - at the recent elections for the urban council and district boards, Hongkong's only democratically elected organs of government.

Apathy over the urban council elections has been pointed to in the past as a sign that the people of Hongkong are not interested in democracy - only in a stable environment in which to make money and, if possible, prepare to emigrate.

Certainly the urban council's responsibilities are limited, with education, health, social services, roads, etc, being run directly by the Government, whose spokesmen have recently said there will be no move towards greater public participation in the near future.

The Government is run by an executive and a legislative council, both of which are composed of ex officio members, and appointees such as business tycoons, lawyers and a sprinkling of social reformers.

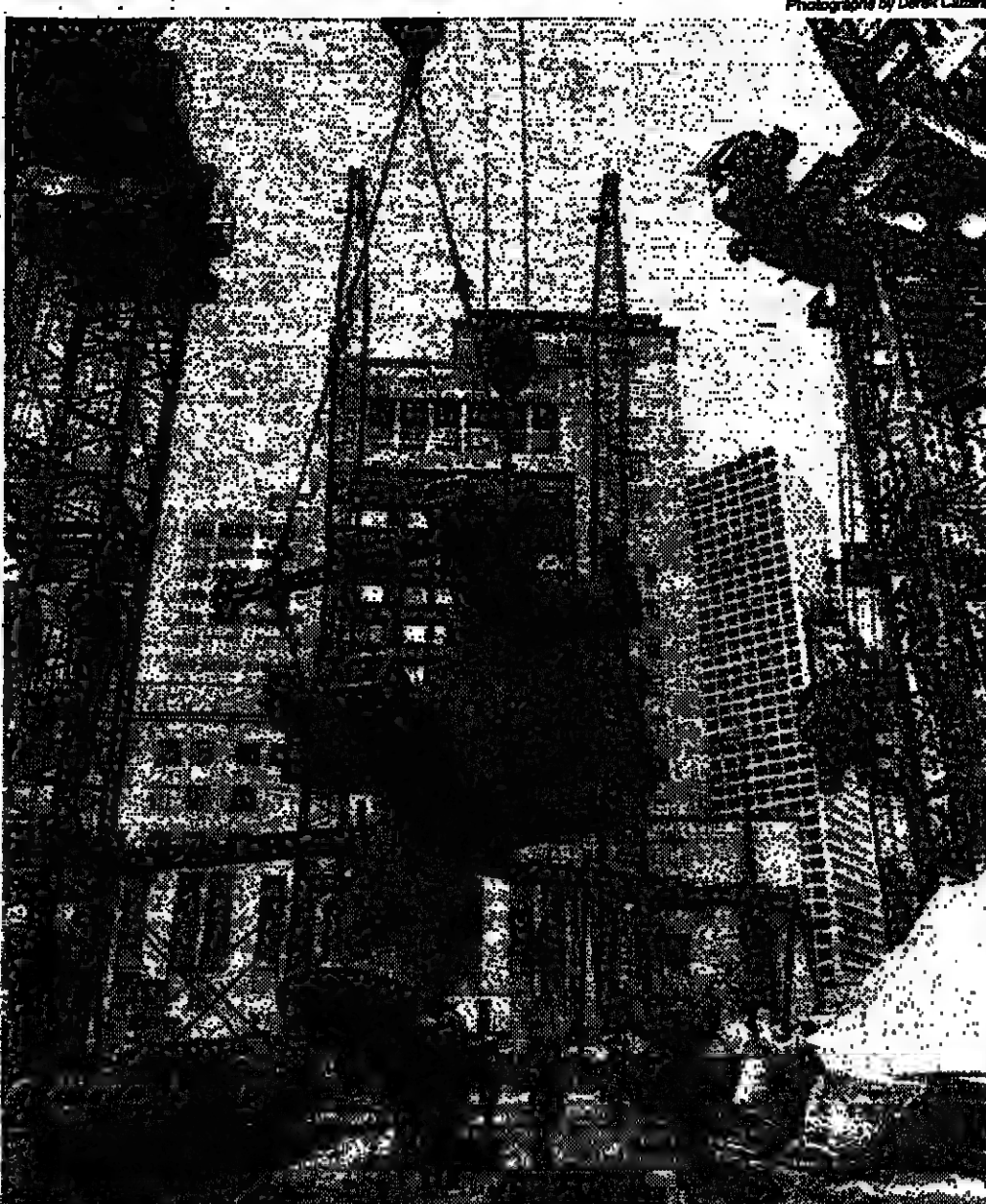
Similarly, in Peking it is a point of Communist Party dogma that the people of Hongkong in the 21st century will be content with a status vaguely defined as that of a "special administrative region" of the People's Republic.

The territory, Peking promises, would keep its way of life and economic and legal systems for an unspecified time to come, after government and sovereignty had passed out of British hands. But how can the present leaders in China answer for the decisions of their successors in more than 14 years from now? Nor for that matter, can anyone know what the British Government in 1997 will want to do about Hongkong.

People here are frustrated by Mrs Thatcher's insistence on total confidentiality surrounding the talks being conducted by British and Chinese diplomats in Peking. They feel, understandably, that the issue is being settled behind their backs.

Assurances by the British and Hongkong governments that the people's interests are being kept in view cut little ice. With native scepticism, the Canton-

Hongkong



The future may be uncertain but the building goes on. Construction of the new headquarters of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank in Central district.

ese and other people of Hongkong show little surprise at this situation. Relatively speaking, they have had things pretty good, and 14 years is a long time in which to work out one's individual options for the future.

What rankle are the things considered to be signs of British indifference to the people who have lived peacefully and, on the whole, law-abidingly under the Union Jack for all this time. The Hongkong-issued British passport is a near-worthless document for anything but short trips abroad. Britain has slashed educational subsidies for Hongkong students. Expatri-

ates still enjoy massive job preference and a standard of living they would be unlikely to have at home.

Despite this, there is hardly any overt hostility towards the "old devils" - as the Chinese commonly call Europeans in Hongkong. There is no safer place for a non-Chinese person to walk the streets by day or night (the same cannot be said for Chinese residents, for whom violent crime is a frequent and increasing menace). But anyone who was here in 1967 can recall how easily old resentments may boil over under provocation.

Hongkong is a place whose resilience and adaptability over

the years are proof of the commonsense of the vast majority of its inhabitants. Peking's proposed solution for 1997 and after is impeccable on paper - local autonomy and minimal change in lifestyle and economic and cultural freedom. It is Britain's responsibility to engage the Chinese leaders in the process of negotiation and planning ahead, which will show not only the desirability, but also the sheer necessity, of guaranteeing that much to the territory's people, however many of them decide to seek their fortunes elsewhere in the meantime.

David Bonavia

ECONOMY

Fears that haunt the money men

The typhoons which sweep in from the South China Sea largely spared Hongkong last year, but the colony was battered by a series of political and economic storms whose aftermath is still very much in evidence.

When Mrs Thatcher came away from Peking in September without any sign of an agreement on what happens to Hongkong beyond the expiry of the New Territories lease in 1997, the gloom already pervading the economy turned into deep depression. It has lifted only slightly since.

Well before the Prime Minister arrived, the stock market had already fallen precipitously from its spring high as the scale of the problems in the glutted property market began to become apparent. Record high interest rates, designed to preserve the fragile Hongkong dollar against total collapse, had squeezed property speculators too hard and recession had already knocked the bottom out of the market for luxury offices and apartments.

After Mrs Thatcher's visit, which arguably did more to hinder than to help the course of the lease negotiations, owing to her intransigent stand on the legality of the leases, flight capital began pouring out of the colony. The local dollar weakened further and the Hang Seng stock market index was nudging 700 by December, roughly half its level in March.

By the middle of last year, too, it was clear that Hongkong's manufacturing and exports sector was in the grip of severe recession and corporate profits began to slide. Exports ended the year 3 per cent down in real terms and order books were looking very thin.

This was by no means the end of Hongkong's problems. Towards the end of November, several of the 350 or so secondary banks or "deposit-taking companies", which have sprung up over the past decade, began to fail. The cause in some cases was alleged fraud or malfeasance by directors but the common factor behind this sudden rash of wrongdoing was a rapid deterioration in the quality of DTC assets. Many of them were heavily involved in trade finance or property lending - loans they suddenly discovered were no longer paying interest or had simply

gone bad. Owners and managers began literally to cut and run while they still could.

A Government policy designed belatedly to stem the runaway growth of the deposit-taking companies and to force their public deposits back into the banking system also contributed to the failures. Those DTCs which were not subsidiaries of banks were thrown into heavy, and costly, dependence on the interbank market. Foreign and local banks which supply funds to this market found themselves dangerously exposed to slumping property assets and took sudden fright at the thought of their interbank lending being used to prop up unsound DTCs also in property or other doubtful lending.

Only some arm-twisting by the Government persuaded the foreign banks to maintain credit lines (while the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank offered emergency support to "soundly managed" DTCs). But with half a dozen DTCs now having failed, there is no indication that the crisis is over, or that it could not spread into the banking sector itself.

The effect of high land prices has been to negate the low income tax rate for all but those provided with company homes

As though to underline the gloom and despondency which had settled over the colony, the Chinese lunar new year (of the Pig) was ushered in during mid-February by prolonged rainstorms. Not even the grand fireworks display staged in Victoria Harbour could brighten the prospect for long. If Hongkong residents, Chinese and expatriate alike, were desperate by this time for good news, Mr John Bremridge, the Financial Secretary, was hardly in a position to give it when he delivered his end-February budget.

Hongkong's gross domestic product growth in 1982, he reported, had come out not at the 7 per cent he had originally forecast but at a modest 2.4 per

cent. Elsewhere in the region, only the Philippines had done that badly (2.6 per cent growth in 1982), while Singapore and South Korea had both managed 6 per cent growth, Indonesia 6.5 per cent, and Thailand 4.5 per cent. Taiwan, too, had grown nearly 4 per cent but, unlike Hongkong, all of these countries give active encouragement to their manufacturing and export sectors, which they rely on for growth.

Mr Bremridge also had the unpleasant task of admitting that his forecast a year earlier of a budget surplus of some HK\$4,900m (about £490m) for fiscal 1982-83 had in fact come out as a HK\$2,400m deficit, owing to an unprecedented decline in the Government's fiscal position. Total revenues in fiscal 1982-83 had come out not at the earlier anticipated HK\$37,800m but at HK\$35,400m, while expenditures had come out somewhat higher than expected, at HK\$33,200m.

Budget deficits are by no means unique to Hongkong, but it was the severity of the deterioration which surprised most people. Land sales revenue has in recent years been what the Government has relied upon most heavily to finance its surplus budget and in 1982-83 land sales revenues fell by HK\$7,000m. The irony of this is that the impact of high land prices at public auction has been correspondingly high prices for office and residential accommodation, whether for sale or to let. And greedy speculators have added on their own liberal margin. The result has been to negate the advantage of a low (15 per cent) income tax rate in Hongkong for all but those expatriates who enjoy the luxury of accommodation provided by their firms.

Although property rental values have declined in the recent crash most people have not felt the full benefit in terms of lower rents and sale prices, simply because a large volume of empty property is being held off the market. Mr Bremridge, perhaps fearing a social backlash if he raised direct taxes and thereby aggravated the existing problems of still high rates, falling real incomes and rising unemployment, opted to increase direct taxes instead. He went for fairly severe imposts on tobacco and alcohol, motor fuel and licences and property

Continued on page 11

EXPORTS

Looking for a lifeline from abroad

The real prospect of Hongkong has always depended on exports, rather than the rowdy-based wealth generated in recent years by the financial and property boom. Now that the property sector has collapsed, and banks are wailing in bad debt, it is the export sector to which the colony is looking again for rescue.

Never has this been more true than in 1983 when private domestic demands subdued by recession and government spending is severely constrained by the first major budget deficit in many years. However, because of the Government's laissez-faire policies, the export sector has enjoyed precious little encouragement to diversify out of traditional products and there are question marks over the demand for textiles in particular this year.

is real (inflation-adjusted) terms, the colony's domestic exports actually declined by 2.7 per cent in 1982, but the Government is aiming for a 5 per cent real increase this year. This is based on the forecast that the leading industrial economies as a whole will expand their output by 1.5 per cent in 1982 following a contraction of 0.5 per cent last year. The power of the United States economy is crucial to both forecasts.

The United States is by far the biggest single customer for Hongkong's domestic exports, taking HK\$29,200m (about £2,920m) worth in 1981 (latest available full-year figure) out of total domestic exports of HK\$80,400m. Including Canada, North American sales were worth HK\$31,600m against the HK\$23,700m worth taken by Western Europe and HK\$12,000m by Asian countries.

The Hongkong Government is estimating a 5 per cent rise in domestic exports to the US in 1983, which should be possible, especially in the light of the relatively moderate attitude taken by Washington towards textile imports from Hongkong in the recent Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA) negotiations.

Exports to Western Europe, and in particular to EEC countries such as France, Britain and Germany, are likely to do far less well, however. Much the same can be said of exports to Canada, Australia, Africa and the Middle East. Last year, Hongkong's exports to Britain fell by 10 per cent and those to Germany by 4 per cent, whereas sales to the US declined by only 1 per cent.

The key to Hongkong's export problems is the colony's very high dependence on clothing and textile fabrics. In 1981 clothing

exports made up HK\$28,300m out of the merchandise total of HK\$80,000m and, if a further HK\$4,000m is added for textile fabrics, the "textile" trade accounted for nearly 40 per cent of the total. It is not hard to see the problems that that points to, given not only the much greater rivalry nowadays from places such as South Korea, Taiwan and Macao (plus China) but also the protectionist attitude of European textile makers.

The export sector receives virtually no encouragement other than in trade promotion

The remainder of Hongkong's export spectrum is hardly wide. In 1981 watches and clocks accounted for HK\$7,000m of exports and toys and dolls for a further HK\$7,000m. These three categories accounted for well over a half of total exports.

It is true that the colony has a strong services base in areas such as tourism, banking and shipping. But it is the (highly export dependent) manufacturing sector which still employs by far the biggest proportion of Hongkong's working population

- close to one million in 1981 or nearly twice the number engaged in trade and tourism and dwarfing the 155,000 in finance and business services. Yet the export sector receives virtually no official encouragement other than at the trade promotion level.

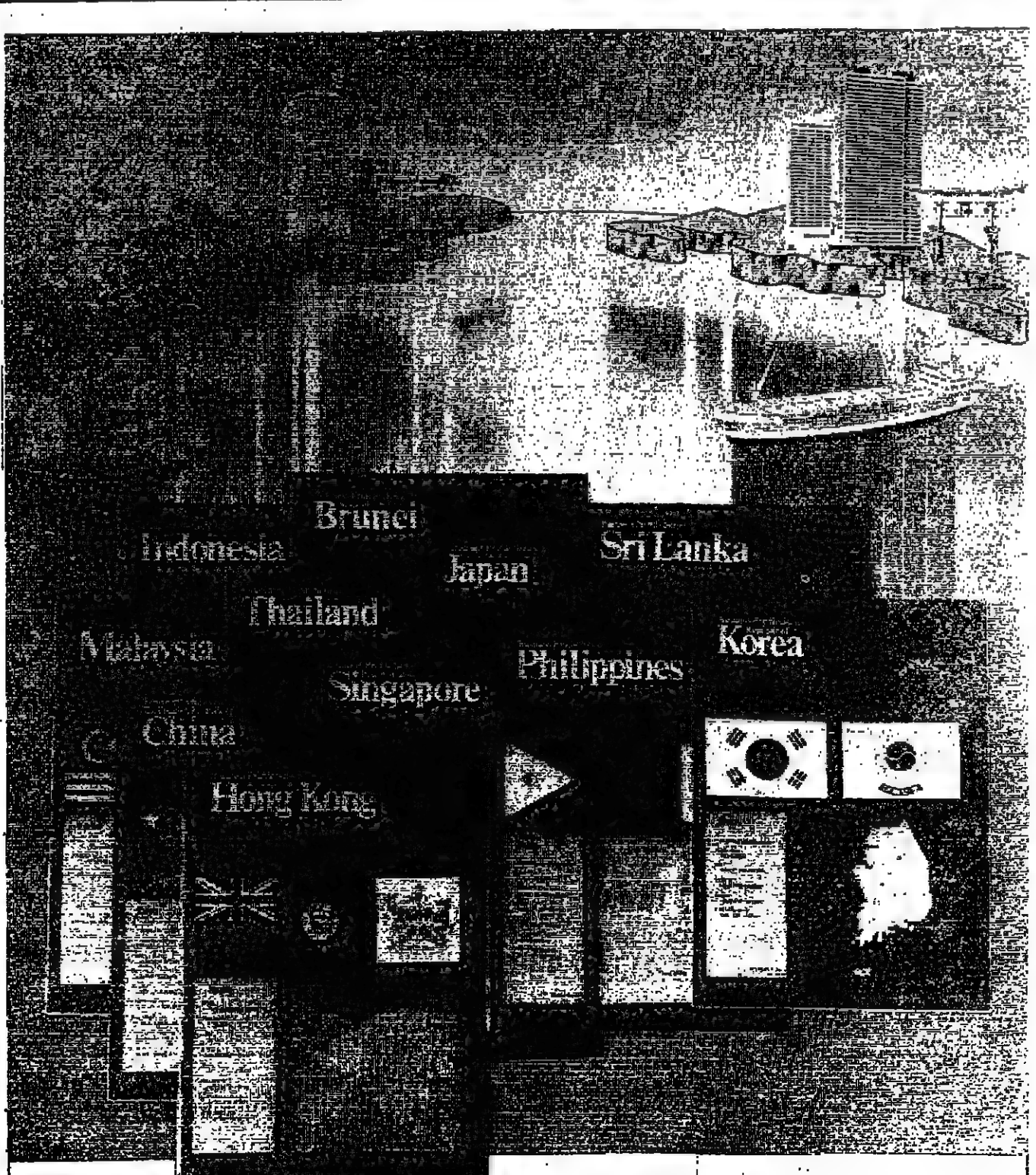
Fortunately re-exports have remained somewhat stronger than domestic exports, managing a 0.3 per cent growth in 1982 and expected to rise 1.2 per cent in real terms this year. That should push the colony's total exports (domestic plus re-exports) up by 7 per cent this year. Hongkong's re-exports consist mainly of consumer goods plus raw materials and semi-manufactures - HK\$17,300m and HK\$16,400m respectively out of total merchandise re-exports of HK\$41,700m in 1981. China is the biggest single source (some HK\$13,000m worth) followed by Japan (HK\$8,400m) and Asian countries as a whole are by far the biggest market, taking HK\$27,400m worth in 1981.

Hongkong manufacturers have made repeated pleas to the Government in recent years for help by way of concessional finance, cheaper industrial land and other facilities in order to boost their international competitiveness. But the pleas have fallen largely on deaf ears. Credit poured instead into the now glutted property market, where for a time it looked as though the sky was the limit for profits until it came to the time to find occupants for the myriad skyscraper office blocks that had sprung up and to which local and foreign banks had lent money with liberal abandon.

A fraction of the money that went into the greedy dreams of property speculators, if invested in manufacturing, might have produced a much more highly capitalized, diversified and modernized export sector. Instead the reverse happened and many exporters, seeing the profits reaped from property speculation, tried their hand at it by closing down factories and selling the land for commercial development. However, the property apple has gone rotten.

Seeing the desperate straits of some manufacturers in the recession, and possibly fearing the social consequences of rising unemployment in the manufacturing/export sector, the big local banks have recently begun offering concessional loans to industry - taking their cue from the Bank of China. It is a belated and inadequate gesture which is hardly to push Hongkong towards an export boom.

Anthony Rowley
Business Editor,
Far Eastern Economic Review



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Forming psychological scar tissue

Capital and confidence appear to be creeping back into Hongkong, judging from the gains that the Hang Seng Index has recorded in recent months. While this widely quoted stock market barometer may not portray the economic prospects for Hongkong entirely accurately, it does reflect to a large degree the level of business confidence in the colony.

When uncertainty over Hongkong's future after 1997 came into sharp focus in September last year, it was the Hang Seng Index's plummeting to its lowest level for years that signalled the fears of the local business community. As the market fell further, with each pessimistic pronouncement, it also exposed the shaky foundations on which numerous property-listed companies had been built.

Despite the recent bull run on the Hongkong stock market, which took the index to its highest level in five months (at 1,066 points in late February), opinion among the local broking fraternity is divided as to whether there will be sufficient support for the rest of the year to keep the market on an upward course.

Over the last three months, vast sums of money have been pouring into the colony. As part of this represents a return of capital which took flight in the fourth quarter of 1982, it is not possible to ascertain accurately the level of foreign purchases.

"The volume of transactions before and since the Chinese Lunar New Year has risen so much that in value terms we are doing better than we did in December 1982," said a spokesman of a leading broking house. Others argue that increased activity had been fuelled by overseas buyers and claim that as much as 70 per cent of the increased turnover of the past three months is linked directly to purchases by foreign institutions.

Despite lingering uncertainty over the colony's future, the consensus is that the worst is over, at least for the moment. Foreign investors subscribe to this view, as do Hongkong brokers who feel that the market will not return to the

September/October 1982 trough, when, at 700 points, it was some 44 per cent below the level at which it stood before Mrs Thatcher's visit to Peking.

According to stockbroker W. I. Carr-Saunders & Company, "For the most part of 1982, 99 per cent of Hongkong's six million people did not even understand the problem at hand. Then suddenly they were confronted with the 1997 issue and the effects were devastating in terms of the stock market. But now, having faced the problem, the psychological scar tissue has developed. As such it will take much more to send them into a state of panic. Today the political situation is neutral."

If W. I. Carr's assessment is correct, the market should go beyond the 1,200 mark at the end of this year. The more optimistic brokers see the Hang Seng Index breaching the 1,300 or even the 1,400 level. Some of these forecasts are based on the belief that economic recovery is already underway in Hongkong.

Most brokers are predicting that the colony's blue chips - Hutchison Whampoa, Cheung Kong Holdings, Jardine Matheson - will not perform too well in 1983. Brokers are also bullish about electronics companies such as Conco Investments and Atlas Industries. Some observers think that the electronics market could perform exceptionally well in the next two years, provided Hongkong can continue to manufacture products more cheaply than the US.

Few companies are expected to tap the market for additional funding, which will spare shareholders the added disincentive of rights issues. In 1982 companies raised almost HK\$900 million (about \$90m) in rights issues, as against HK\$6,400 million in 1981. Overall the market raised only HK\$401 million in new capital last year, as against HK\$3,000 million in 1981.

Meanwhile, the future development of the securities industry in Hongkong will be affected by the impact which the new unified stock exchange has on trading patterns. The Stock

Exchange of Hongkong, which will begin operations later this year, will for the first time bring together four separate exchanges which operate independently of each other - and often to the detriment of the securities industry.

Physically, one modern floor will replace four. Members will be competing in one market instead of working in four separate, and to some extent competing, markets. There will be a common market discipline in the widest sense and membership itself will have clearer definition.

These reforms will help to streamline trading activities, which is why a single unified exchange was regarded as such an important objective. As Mr Derek Murphy, Hongkong's Deputy Securities Commissioner, said last year: "Competition between stock brokers is clearly a good thing but competition between exchanges can be counter productive."

It is generally accepted that an exchange has unfettered discretion whether or not to list a public company. But, as Mr Murphy pointed out, if one exchange says no to a listing there is always the danger that another exchange will approve it.

The same applies to membership. At present there is no minimum qualification for admission - only financial status and suitability of character. Thus a prospective candidate, having been rejected by one exchange which requires higher standards than another, can be accepted elsewhere.

There is also the problem of coordinating price-sensitive information. "Where a company's securities are listed on more than one exchange in the same geographical area, there is a risk of dissemination of information in one market ahead of another to the advantage of the latter," Mr Murphy said.

Despite hopes for a reduction in the number of stockbrokers it was decided that every member

of an existing exchange should be eligible, providing he satisfied certain requirements. The criteria for membership are being considered by a special committee. Permitted classes of membership, qualification criteria, and details of trust arrangements are among the issues to be reviewed. The committee will present its findings to Mr Robert Fell, the Securities Commissioner, by late June.

Listing rules for the new exchange still have to be finalized. Mr Kenneth Yu, secretary and listing manager, Far East Exchange, said that listing rules adopted in Britain would serve as the model but there could be changes to suit local conditions. Among the ones envisaged is an increase in the initial aggregate market value of companies applying for listing.

The Stock Exchange of Hongkong did the same as the new market - was incorporated as a company limited by shares in July, 1980, having an authorized capital of HK\$100m. The following month the Stock Exchanges Unification Ordinance was enacted. It provided for recognition of an exchange company which, from an appointed date, would become the only exchange permitted in Hongkong.

The new exchange will have a department for each of its functions - listings, trading, computer, records, membership and secretariat.

The committee has decided to retain most of the original features of the existing system but to speed up trading and raise movement of the broker on the floor by employing computers. Under this new system the big board normally on display in front of the broker's seat will show only bid and asked prices of the listed securities.

Other details will be computerized and each member will be supplied with a terminal and telephone which will be used to replace the outcry system.

Ranjit Gill

PROPERTY

After the boom, the slide continues

It was inevitable that a bust would follow the property boom of the late 1970s. The collapse, which is now widely evident, was caused by a combination of oversupply, property trading difficulties, world economic recession which eroded demand for office space and luxury accommodation for expatriates, and political uncertainty over Hongkong's future.

Annual results for 1982 of four leading property development companies and two major trading houses (with large property subsidiaries) showed the extent of the damage. Hongkong Land, the largest property developer in the territory, reported a 27 per cent drop in net profits to just over HK\$1,000m (about £100m). Moreover, Hongkong Land felt it necessary to set aside HK\$1,900m for what it called "possible future termination" of two huge projects, and another HK\$314m for Letters B (government-issued New Territories land exchange entitlements).

The two projects - one commercial, the other residential - were in trouble because

partners in the consortium (Carrian and Eda) had defaulted on payments. Eda is in the process of winding up under a court order. Hongkong Land recently sold its share in Hongkong Telephone, to Britain's Cable and Wireless for HK\$1,400m (a profit of HK\$400m).

Jardine Matheson's consolidated net profits were down 2.1 per cent to HK\$708m, a decline which it attributed to its 40 per cent equity in Hongkong Land. Swire Pacific reported a 17.5 per cent drop in profits. The Government's coffers also suffered, with a HK\$3,000m deficit recorded in 1982/83, the first in many years. Lack of buyers for its land resulted in revenue from this source falling HK\$7,300m short of its original estimate. In 1983/84, land is expected to bring in only 10 per cent of general revenue, compared to 33 per cent in previous years.

The property market's collapse has also caused problems for the Mass Transit Railway Corporation's (MTRC) Island Line extension, which was relying on profits on property development of sites above the

underground to finance up to 50 per cent of its HK\$11,000m cost. The developer of the eight sites contracted so far, a consortium led by Hang Lung Development, has completed one project, but has withdrawn from the second.

A question mark hangs over its ability to develop the other six sites because of the collapse of Eda, a big partner in the consortium.

However, a recent government announcement that the sites will not be handed over for development until a later date offers some respite for the consortium. Meanwhile, the MTRC will have to seek commercial loans to finance the Island Line. The Government, having conceded that the factors (expected profits from property development) which led it to approve the construction of the Island Line "no longer apply", is unwilling to pour more money into the MTRC.

The property market's slide has also had a serious effect on the financial sector. Several deposit-taking companies (DTCs or quasi-banks) have gone to the wall, partly as a

result of a legislated restructuring of the financial sector which removed a source of public funds for these institutions, but also because of their participation in funding property speculation.

The sufferings of the big companies, however, have brought some comfort to the market place; prices and rents are now more affordable.

Even so, such benefits to the customer have their negative aspects. Domestic rent control, instituted in 1979 to protect the middle class, is expected to be lifted in rapid stages from December. Though the Government has virtually assured the public that the removal of rent control will not take place "all at once", it has reiterated its policy to do away with it, when circumstances justify. Such circumstances, officials have stated, are not far off. The "sandwiched society", as the middle class is called - since its members are too well-off to qualify for public housing but cannot afford to buy their own flats - has already started grumbling at the prospect.

continued on page 1V

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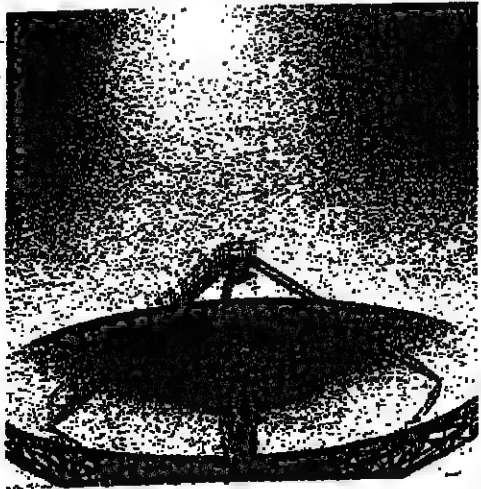
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continued from page 1

rates. He even raised the departure fee from KHS20 to HK\$100.

Not that this in itself will bridge the budget deficit, which is expected to increase to HK\$7,400m in fiscal 1983/84. Increased taxes should yield an additional HK\$3,000m (provided the reaction is not simply a cut in consumption) and an additional HK\$3,000m will come from fiscal reserves. A further HK\$1,300m will be drawn down from the Capital Works Reserve Fund.

Mr Bremridge did not opt for government borrowing to help finance the budget deficit. The colony has sufficient fiscal reserves to finance perhaps another two years of deficits at the current level. But apart from the fact that it would be highly imprudent to exhaust such reserves there are monetary arguments in favour of abandoning the present position of virtually no government debt.

Government debt instruments would provide a means of intervening in the market to influence money supply instead of having to rely totally on the iniquitous interest rate agreement or cartel operated through the banking system, as at present. Mr Bremridge indicated that he might consider borrowing this time next year. Fiscal deficits are here to stay for some years, given the collapse in property and land values.

Inflation continues to run at high levels by international standards. Hongkong suffered a 10.6 per cent rate of consumer price inflation last year and is expected 9 per cent in 1983, partly because of the weak local currency. Domestic interest rates remain correspondingly high.

The visible trade deficit narrowed slightly to HK\$16,300m last year and is expected to remain at around this level in 1983, with the gap closed partly by invisible earnings from tourism and other services.

Whether capital flows will bridge the remaining gap and save the Government from using its foreign exchange reserves will depend largely on the political climate. At present there appear to be net capital inflows, but government concessions removing withholding taxes on foreign currency deposits in Hongkong are partly responsible for that.

This year looks like being at best a very uncertain one for Hongkong and there is little justification in terms of economic or financial fundamentals for the recent speculative rise in the stockmarket, fed largely by foreign funds.

A. R.

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (Real change, %)

| | 1981 | 1982 | Forecast 1983 | 5 year average 1978-82 | 1982 actual (current HK\$'000m) E1=HK\$10 |
|------------------------|------|------|---------------|------------------------|---|
| Private consumption | 12.2 | 1.7 | 3 | 10.8 | 105.6 |
| Government consumption | 25.4 | 7.7 | 6 | 12.7 | 13.0 |
| Gross fixed capital | 13.1 | -0.2 | 6 | 12.9 | 43.4 |
| Exports | 13.6 | -5.2 | 4 | 5.8 | 20.5 |
| Imports | 4.8 | 0 | -2 | 5.5 | 10.8 |
| Public construction | 6.8 | 25.6 | 15 | 7.6 | 10.4 |
| Total exports | 13.0 | -1.7 | 7 | 7.2 | 127.3 |
| Domestic demand | 8.0 | -2.7 | 5 | 4 | 83.0 |
| Total imports | 24.6 | 0.3 | 12 | 27 | 44.3 |
| Net services | 11.7 | -2.7 | 7 | 17 | 143.6 |
| GDP | -3.9 | 0.4 | 2 | -2 | 9.2 |
| Per capita GDP | 10.9 | 2.4 | 4 | 9 | 157.3 |
| Domestic demand | 8.4 | 0.8 | 1.4 | 6 | HK\$30,000 |
| Final demand | 10.9 | 1.2 | 4 | 11 | |
| GDP deflator | 11.3 | -0.1 | 5 | 11 | |
| Consumer-price index | 9.6 | 11.8 | 8 | 10.1 | |
| Terms-of-trade index | 15.4 | 10.8 | 9 | 10.1 | |
| | -1.8 | 0 | - | - | |

Source: Hongkong Government

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A closer examination of some companies' individual investment programmes will provide additional proof that Hong Kong is looking forward to an exciting and confident future.

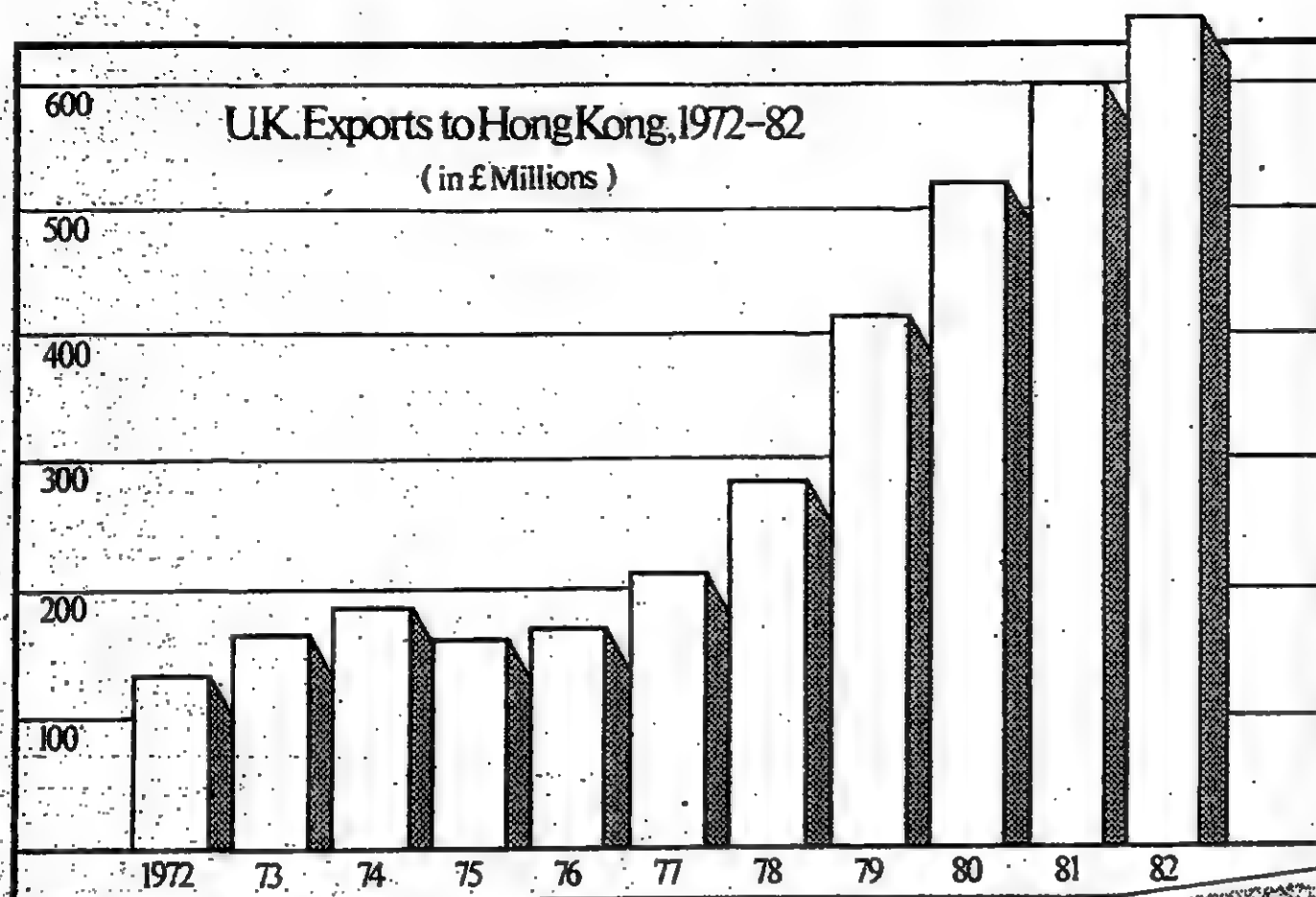
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□ Housing Authority announces £39.5 million worth of public housing construction contracts awarded for Taiipo, Cheung Chau and Ngau Tau Kok (5,778 flats for 32,800 people).

□ Government awards £21.8 million contract for foundations of a £136 million 6-tower office complex on Wanchai reclamation area.

□ £2.7 million aluminium plant (Modern Metal & Refining Ltd) to start production at Yuen Long Industrial Estate in March 1983.

□ £118 million investment planned by 36 companies in Taiipo and Yuen Long Industrial Estates.

□ £118 million contract awarded by Hongkong Land to Gammon for first phase of Exchange Square development.

□ American Express announces that all regional travellers' cheque and credit card operations will be moved to Hong Kong.

□ Ferranti Electronics in joint venture with Wheelock Marden.

□ Governor announces 203,000 public housing flats will be built between 1982/83 and 1986/87 (average of over 40,000 per year).

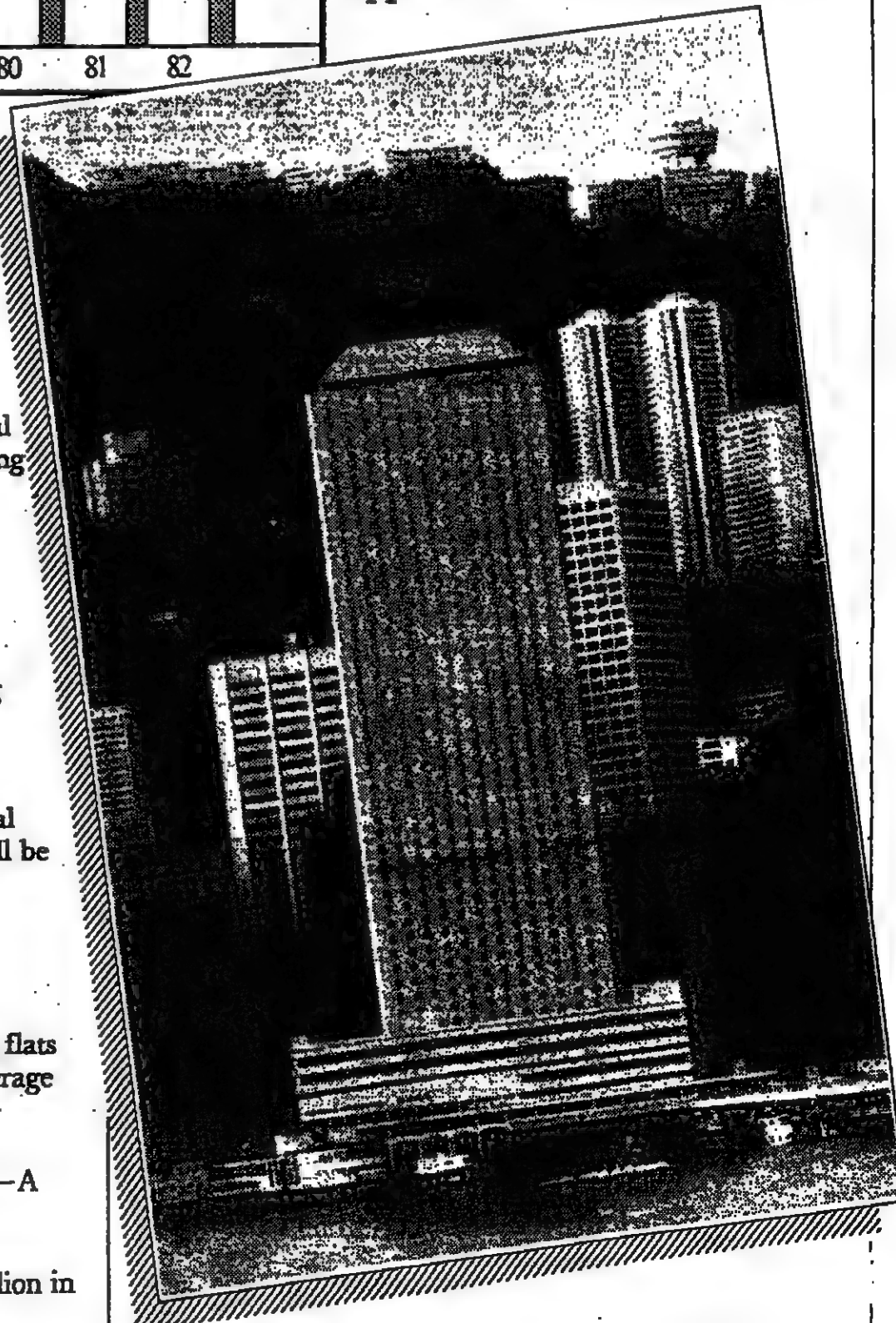
□ Hong Kong fashions take London by storm — A Harvey Nichols promotion.

□ Brown Boveri of Switzerland invests £2.7 million in electronics plant at Taiipo Industrial Estate.

□ 4 Japanese Banks and 1 French Bank to open in Hong Kong.

□ Hongkong & Shanghai Bank announces 20 year mortgages.

□ HK Electronics Fair estimated to have won £5.9 million in on-the-spot orders with further £16.4 million under negotiation.



HKTDC

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REFUGEES

An unfriendly welcome at Chi Ma Wan

Barbed wire surmounts the high prison fences. A thin wind whips off the sea and slices between the forbidding grey buildings. Its very name, Chi Ma Wan Closed Centre, has a sinister ring about it, but it is the reality facing Vietnamese fleeing to Hongkong by boat.

It is a reality given added poignancy by the children running around the camp. At any one time monthly births are likely to be in double figures. New lives utterly without prospects, beginning on a little prison island with the haven of Hongkong seen vaguely in the distance through the mists.

Hongkong, the beacon for countless thousands of refugees over the years from both China and Vietnam, is only reflecting the weariness of the Western countries with the problems of the boat people and the economic concerns which force them to reconsider their priorities.

Eight years after the end of the Vietnam war they are still arriving, though fewer than in the recent past, when there was less concern. Resettlement have slowed to a tenth of what they were two years ago but those now leaving Vietnam have little chance of being resettled through Hongkong. They are likely to be in the colony indefinitely.

To some, the barbed wire and the prison conditions seem unnecessarily cruel, but the authorities have decided that for the good of both sides the exodus has to be discouraged. The rigid conditions of Chi Ma Wan should be enough to discourage anyone not actually facing certain death in Vietnam.

In Chi Ma Wan now are 2,958 unfortunates who arrived after the cut-off date of July 2 last year. The camp is clean and orderly and, in contrast with some of the open holding camps, there is no overcrowding, but there is no mistaking the status of the inmates. They

respond to visitors as to jailers until they realize the possibilities of a journalistic contact; but it is a cruel hope, falsely raised.

Hongkong's place in the ranking of countries of first asylum for Vietnamese refugees has always been a special one. The profile of arrivals has gradually changed, unlike those for other regional countries. The beginning was conventional enough, with the arrival of the *Clara Maersk* in May 1975 with 3,743 escapees on board. The early arrivals - the trickle became a flood with more than 66,000 landing in the first seven months of 1979 - were almost exclusively ethnic Chinese; many of them from the south of Vietnam.

Those refugees, fleeing Vietnamese persecution of the Chinese minority, were of a high calibre, mainly business people with skills to offer and often quite a lot of money to start a new life in third countries. Being Chinese, most were well educated and adaptable, readily able to fit in almost anywhere they were sent. In 1979 only 15 per cent of the arrivals were ethnic Vietnamese. Today the ethnic Vietnamese make up 98 per cent.

Today's refugees from Vietnam are of a different calibre from their predecessors. Most are from north or central Vietnam. They have little education, coming mostly from fishing villages or the countryside, and few skills to offer resettlement countries. Their reasons for leaving are most often economic, but some wish to escape military service.

There would be little use in putting them into the open centres in which earlier arrivals were placed; they could not go out to jobs as refugees in Hongkong itself do.

Towards the end of last month there were 12,352 awaiting resettlement, with only about 5 per cent of them having

secured acceptance abroad: at the same time 1982 arrivals had fallen, but by a much smaller margin than in the rest of the region.

The number of arrivals by boat throughout the area last year fell by 42 per cent. In Hongkong the fall was only 6 per cent. Resettlement has been disappointingly low compared with other South-East Asian countries which have received the boat people. Hongkong's rate for 1982 was 44 per cent, while other first asylum countries went as high as Malaysia's 66 per cent.

All this has persuaded the Hongkong authorities that drastic measures to cut off the flow from Vietnam may be required. In spite of considerable assistance in the closed camps from the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the refugees have cost the Hongkong Government US \$18m (about £12m) in straight outgoings. This does not take into account the diversion of resources and the use of land which would otherwise yield a return.

Among the options being considered is the forced repatriation of new arrivals, a dramatic switch from the humanitarian policy which has set Hongkong apart from other South-East Asian countries in the past. Such a programme is still only at the stage of being considered. Should it go ahead it would have to be the subject of negotiations not only with the Foreign Office in London but also with the Vietnamese Government and the UNHCR.

The numbers of Vietnamese boat people in Hongkong pale into insignificance compared with the influx from China. The peak of the flood again coincided with events in Indo-China. As Chinese troops were withdrawn from the border with Hongkong to cope with the fighting on the Vietnam-China border, the steady flow of



One of the young refugees at the Jubilee Camp in Kowloon

refugees from China became a flood. In 1979 90,000 were caught on first arrival and 107,000 got through to "touch base" under the policy then prevailing, which allowed those who managed to evade both the Chinese and the British to stay.

That influx so frightened the authorities and the people of Hongkong that the "touch base" policy was abolished. Last year 8,700 hopefuls were turned back. That change and the introduction of identity cards for Hongkong citizens have not eliminated the problem of the illegals brought in by "snake heads" or racketeers. These illegals are responsible, the authorities believe, for much of the recent violent crime in Hongkong.

While the police have had a good deal of success in picking up illegals, the skill of the counterfeiter has prevented them from being totally successful. Since the "touch base" rule

was ended it has been estimated that more than 8,000 illegals are living underground. They are still arriving at the rate of nine a day.

To counteract the illegals and their effect on the crime rate, new identity cards are being issued from this month. Learning from the lessons of Northern Ireland, they will be backed by a new computer which will allow police officers to run immediate checks on identity cards.

Given the current poor state of the Hongkong economy and the heavy penalties for those assisting illegal immigrants, the police will most probably enjoy considerable public support in the hunt for illegals. Thus, with good policing at the border, it is hoped to eliminate the illegal element in Hongkong's population.

David Watts

HIGHER EDUCATION

Getting ready for the great leap forward

Hongkong has always been something of a laggard in educational development. When the rest of the world was racing to expand tertiary education, the British-administered territory had to stand on the sidelines. It was then still struggling to provide enough school places at the primary and secondary levels.

Now that budgetary stringency and slackening demand for university students have caught up with a number of Western countries, effectively putting a curb on further growth, Hongkong is preparing for its "great leap forward" in the field of higher education.

Current plans are that by the mid-1990s the opportunities for degree courses will increase threefold. The target is to raise first-year degree places from 2.5 per cent of the 17 to 19 age group to eight per cent by 1995, two years before the lease on the New Territories expires. There are plans for a second polytechnic to be opened by 1988, with a total enrolment of 20,000 students, of whom 8,000 will be full-time and the rest part-time and evening students. In the early 1990s numbers will rise to 30,000, of whom 13,500 will be full-time students. A site is being prepared and the appointment of a director is under consideration.

Thirty per cent of the courses offered at the new polytechnic will be at degree level. On top of this, the authorities are examining the feasibility of an open university.

Existing institutions will also be significantly developed over the next ten years. The supply of degree places will be increased by 4 per cent a year at Hongkong's two universities up till 1988, with specific training requests by the Government to be met over and above this figure.

This will see total enrolment at the University of Hongkong, the territory's oldest, and at the newer Chinese University growing from the present 11,200 to 15,100 in four years' time.

This is 3,000 places in excess

of the projection of the 1978 White Paper on senior secondary and tertiary education. In the longer term, the English-language University of Hongkong has been asked to explore the possibility of increasing its student population from 6,000 to about 10,000 in the mid 1990s, with emphasis on a greater intake of medical and law students.

The Hongkong Polytechnic, which at present has an enrolment of 23,400 - of whom 8,000 are full time, 3,700 day-release, and the remainder evening class students - ought to have 30 per cent of its planned full-time equivalent students on degree courses by 1988.

This expansion comes amid uncertainty and anxieties about the future of Hongkong after Britain's lease on the New Territories runs out in 1997, currently the subject of negotiations with China. Why embark on an expansion programme while the whole Hongkong question remains unsolved?

One reason is that, despite present worries, most people realize that there will be nowhere for them to go whatever happens in 1997. They live in hope that when sovereignty reverts to China, life here will be little changed.

With hardly any natural resources, and depending for its living on its ability to trade effectively, Hongkong must ensure that its gradually diversifying economy is well supplied with highly educated and skilled manpower. Also, the groundwork for the present expansion was laid in the late 1970s, when it was widely held that the last thing China would do would be to disturb the status quo in Hongkong, lest it kill the goose that laid the golden eggs.

To halt expansion plans while negotiations between Britain and China are at a delicate stage would be interpreted by Hongkong people as a sign that the Government was

getting ready to pull out, and this could cause a crisis of confidence.

Clearly, in the long term, much will depend on the outcome of the current talks, but with expansion virtually guaranteed until the end of the decade, it is not surprising that policy makers and educators are exuding confidence.

Professor M. A. Brimer, head of the School of Education at the University of Hongkong, points out: "We are the envy of the rest of the university world because we are expanding when everybody else is contracting."

The provision of university places, however, is still low. With a population of some five and a half million, the territory has only two universities and one polytechnic, compared with the seven universities and four polytechnics for a population of three million in New Zealand.

University places are available for only 2.5 per cent of the 17-20 age group, compared with 4 to 6 per cent in other Asian countries. Hongkong lags behind countries such as Singapore and South Korea, which are regarded as being at a comparable stage of development.

This has resulted in a brain-drain to the United States, Canada and Britain. According to recent statistics, more than 14,400 students went overseas for their education in 1981-82, a number which exceeds by more than 4,000 the total enrolment of the two local universities in the same period.

By acquiring a near-monopoly of secondary education, the Government has created expectations that it will provide further education for matriculating sixth-formers.

Nobody wants to repeat the mistakes of countries such as India, where the rush to expand tertiary education has meant that many graduates take menial jobs, for lack of employment suited to their qualifications.

Halima Guterres
South China Morning Post

The continuing property slump

Continued from page II

The Government is also taking advantage of the market downturn. A home-ownership scheme for the middle-class (family income of between HK\$6,500 and HK\$13,000 a month) has been scrapped after 2,500 flats selling for HK\$200,000 to HK\$300,000 drew only 1,000 applications. Land allocated for this middle-income housing scheme is likely to revert to the home ownership scheme for families earning less than HK\$6,500 a month. Flats in this scheme are very much in demand, drawing several times more applications than can be accommodated. Annual production is running at a modest 5,000 units.

Furthermore, the Government is using this cooling-off period to repay a curious and complicated land debt of more than 100 million square feet to Letters B holders. Letters B were issued to New Territories land owners whose property was used for the construction of new towns.

As these land exchange

entitlements were transferable, most were sold to property developers. In the past, however, much of the land put out for redemption of Letters B was for industrial use and was thus unattractive to holders. In its April-September land sales forecast, however, the Government will be putting out a record 900,000 sq ft of residential land in the New Territories for such exchange - 41 per cent of sites allocated for this category of land use.

The market conditions have also brought a new method of land disposal. Some 400,000 sq ft of residential land, most of it in the prime South Hongkong Island zone, will be available for sale "by auction or tender on application". This means that developers are obliged to show their genuine interest by depositing an amount (to be fixed by the Government) which will reflect the base market value for the site. The eventual sale price should not go below this value.

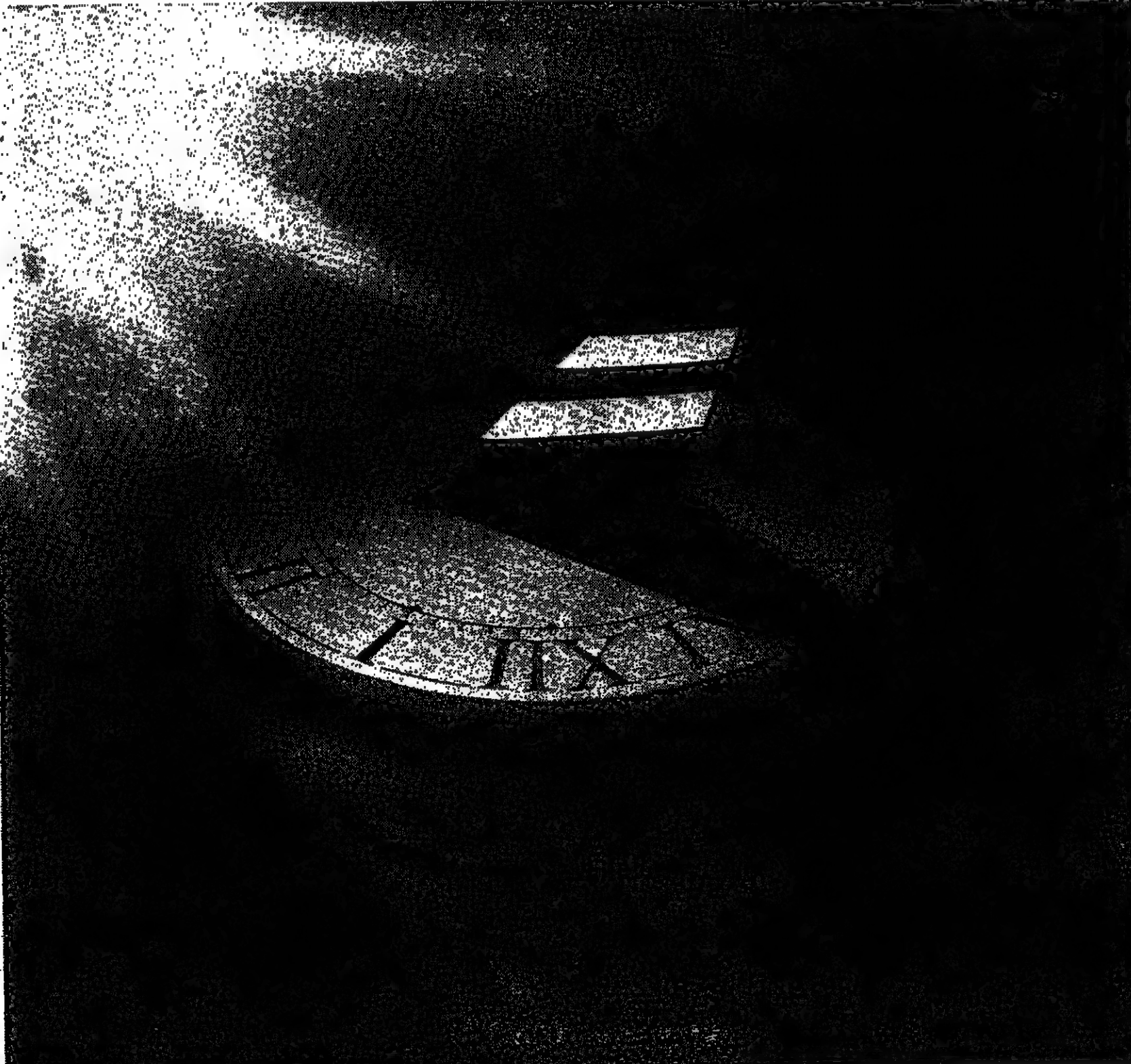
Analysts are divided as to when the property market will recover from its present slump.

Valuers and estate agents say it is now possible to acquire prime properties at bargain prices. Jones Lang Wootton argues that yields on prime property of 9-10 per cent compare favourably with prevailing interest rates. Meanwhile, talks on Hongkong's future have reached a stalemate over the issue of sovereignty. Recovery of the economy, with its reliance on exports, is on the cards, but unless Peking allows a continuation of some form of official British presence in the territory after 1997, confidence in Hongkong's future can be no more than short-term. In these circumstances, the property companies can at best look forward to avoiding further erosion of the market.

Mary Lee

Hongkong Correspondent,
Far Eastern Economic Review.

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Hong Kong Government Office, 6 Grafton Street, London, W1X 3LE.

To all Stockholders in UDS Group plc

Bassishaw or Hanson?

This week you have an important decision to make in respect of your UDS Group holding.

To accept 133½p per share from Hanson Trust or their cash and shares alternative. Or 130p per share from Bassishaw.

Your decision is crucial

The decision is yours. One that will inevitably affect, for better or worse, the futures of the UDS Group's 19,000 employees and their families. And could, quite literally, change the face of Britain's High Streets.

As Directors, we have obligations to employees as well as members.

"The matters to which the directors of the company are to have regard in the performance of their functions shall include the interests of the company's employees in general as well as the interests of its members."

Companies Act 1980, Section 46

We take these obligations extremely seriously.

All the members of your Board, as well as its financial advisers, regard both offers as fair and reasonable. But our responsibility for the future well-being of your Company and its employees remains.

Questions that must be answered

Both bidders were, therefore, asked for assurances concerning the future of the businesses and their employees. Their responses are summarised in the table below.

| Business | BASSISHAW | HANSON |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| RICHARD SHOPS | Keep and develop. Install new merchandise systems. | No assurances to retain the business. |
| JOHN COLLIER | Will invest in the business. | No assurances to retain the business. |
| JOHN COLLIER Hartlepool Factory | Will retain for UK and export production; assurances given to Union. | No assurances as to security of employment. |
| ALLDERS DEPARTMENT STORES | A good viable business which Bassishaw would wish to continue to operate. | No specific assurances. |
| WILLIAM TIMPSON & JOHN FARMER | To maintain both as separate businesses under their present management. | No specific assurances. |
| OCEAN TRADING GROUP | Will retain and operate. Will develop its international potential. | No specific assurances. |

Whose answer is better?

In our opinion the implication is clear.

Bassishaw has given a firm commitment to our businesses and employees. Hanson Trust has not.

Indeed, we believe Hanson's business philosophy is likely to result in closures, disposals and a serious loss of jobs.

Is this what you want?

Bassishaw has expressed a quite different philosophy. Its stated aim is to restore UDS to its proper position as a leading and highly competitive High Street retailer.

The assurances from Bassishaw are specific and positive. The fact that its members include the pension funds of the National Coal Board, the Post Office and British Rail, strengthens our belief that it will carefully consider employment issues.

Our profits estimates for the year to January 29th 1983 show that the remedial action taken last year to improve profitability and efficiency has already made a positive impact. They confirm our belief that Bassishaw's proposals for the businesses are entirely realistic.

Turnover has risen. Profit before taxation is up by 62%. Earnings per 25p stock unit have increased by 87%. During the first eleven weeks of 1983, sales were approximately 15% ahead of the same period last year.

What we recommend

If your sole interest is in getting the maximum price for your holding, doubtless you will accept the Hanson Trust offer.

But if you consider it more responsible to preserve a major independent force in Britain's High Streets, and with it the prospects of our employees, you may consider a few pence per share an acceptable cost.

Although two of your non-executive Directors recommend you to accept the offer from Hanson Trust, in the view of six of your Board's eight Directors Bassishaw offers you a fair price for your holding and better prospects for your Company and its employees.

Our advice is clear.

Reject the Hanson Trust offer. Accept the Bassishaw offer.

Our financial advisers, Charterhouse Japhet, endorse the legitimacy of this advice and believe stockholders should give it the strongest possible consideration.

Please think very carefully before you make your decision.



UNITED DRAPERY STORES

UDS Group plc, Marble Arch House,
66/68 Seymour Street, London W1A 2BY.

This advertisement has been placed by Charterhouse Japhet on behalf of UDS Group plc. The issue of this advertisement has been approved by the Board of UDS (with the exception of Sir Robert Clark and Mr. David Jessel). Each of the Directors of UDS (with the exception of Sir Robert Clark and Mr. David Jessel) has taken reasonable care to ensure both that the facts stated and opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate and each accepts responsibility accordingly.

Investment and Finance

City Editor
Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

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London WC1X 8EZ
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STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 685.2 down 9.8
FT 100 Index 51.88 down 0.51
FT All Shares 437.46 down 4.06
Bargains: 24,883
Tring Hall USM Index 172.8 down 0.1
Tokyo: 8541.86 down 40.67
Hongkong Hang Seng Index 1043.18 up 2.21
New York Dow Jones Average (last) 1178.12 up 5.12

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.5520 down 95 points
Index 83.8 unchanged
DM 3.81
FF 11.41
Yen 368.50
Dollar Index 122.9 up 0.1
DM 2.4520 down 75 pts
Gold \$439.50 down 52

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Base rates 14-15%
3 month interbank 10 1/2-10 3/4%
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9 1/2-9 3/4%
3 month DM 5 1/2-5 3/4%
3 month FF 13 1/2-13 3/4%
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period March 2 to April 5, 1983 inclusive: 10.974 per cent.

PRICE CHANGES

Bastian Int 12p up 2p
Massey-F 235p up 30p
Websters Grp 61p up 6p
Mills & Allen 400p up 35p
East Dags 353p up 32p
Husky Oil 535p up 35p
Balcick Hodge 18 1/2p down 5 1/2p
Wheway Watson 9 1/2p down 1 1/2p
Talbex 5 1/2p down 1 1/2p
Johnson & FB 9p down 1p
Marler Eats 82p down 2p
M James Ind 22p down 2p

TODAY

Interims: Dublin, Wada Poteries
Finals: Barrow, Gephurn, Biddle Hds, A & C Black, Brit Syphon, Brixton Eats, Chesterfield Props, Danish Bacon, Fogarty, Haden, Hawker Siddley, Mier, RMC, Sars, Trist of Scotland, W H Smith, Steel Bros, Sun Life Assoc, Triplevest, Utd Parcels, Wadkin.
Economic statistics: Indices of Average Earnings (February), Indices of Basic Rates of Wages (March), Industrial and commercial companies capital account and net borrowing requirements (4th qtr).

BL 'faces fierce competition'

Sir Austin Bide, chairman of BL, said in his annual review yesterday that the company faces fierce competition from the world vehicle industry and must continue to reduce its fixed and variable costs in real terms if it is to match the advances being made by foreign competitors.
In 1982, fixed costs were reduced by 11 per cent in real terms.
There will have to be further increases in productivity, more effective use of manufacturing facilities and continued rationalization of products and components so that the latest automated manufacturing techniques can be used to maximum effect, Sir Austin said.

● **STERLING RISES:** The pound rose to a new three-month high of \$1.57 against the dollar and touched its highest average level this year in early trading yesterday. But after profit-taking it finished nearly a cent down from Monday at \$1.5520, leaving its trade-weighted index unchanged at 83.8 after opening at 84.5.
● **SURVIVAL PACKAGE:** Sir Robert Atkinson, chairman of British Shipbuilders, yesterday presented a package of survival measures to the Department of Industry. Ministers will now consider his call for special credit arrangements for domestic ship owners, the mothballing of some shipyards and more money for redundancy payments. Sir Robert has urged workers to accept a pay freeze in return for these measures.
● **PAKISTAN AID:** Britain yesterday pledged, at a World Bank consortium meeting in Paris, a further £20m of project aid to Pakistan.
● **PROFITS RISE:** American Express yesterday reported a 37 per cent gain in first quarter net income from \$118m to \$162m (\$105m).

Wall St stocks turn down

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Wall Street stocks were retreating last night. The Dow Jones industrial average was off about 6.1-2 points at 1,176. Its initial loss had been cut to about 2.1-2 points before the fresh slide.
Declining issues were still 4-10 ahead of advances in active trading.
Mr Robert Mintz, vice-president at Phillips Appel & Walden, said that "the market two weeks ago showed the same kind of pressure that we are seeing here."
"It may be pointless to expect the market to continue higher after eight days of advance but still there is no selling pressure; so you have to look at it on a day-to-day basis."

General Electric was off 3-4 at 110 1/4. International Business Machines off 5-8 at 111 1/2. Johnson & Johnson up 1-2 at 48 1/4. American Telephone & Telegraph up 1-8 at 67 3/4. Exxon off 3-8 at 33. Federal Express down 1-3 at 82 1/4. American Express off 1-2 at 67. Union Carbide off 1-4 at 61 7/8. Merck up 3-8 at 84 1/4.
General Public Utilities is up 1 at 8-8-8. The Supreme Court said nuclear regulation does not have to consider psychological stress in the licensing process.
The ruling came in an appeal involving restarting one of the two reactors at the Three Mile Island plant Pennsylvania, owned by a unit of General Public Utilities.
Texas Instruments was 161 1/8 down 2 1/2. Teledyne 142 1/8 down 1-5-8.

Shop union backs Bassishaw

By Graham Searjeant

The Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers, which represents most employees of the UDS group, has urged shareholders to take the advice of the boardroom majority and accept a lower takeover bid from the Bassishaw consortium, rather than the bid from Hanson Trust, which is giving no specific assurances over the future of the UDS businesses or jobs.
The shopworkers said yesterday that it had received hundreds of telephone calls from anxious employees after the UDS board had sent round details of the different assurances given by the two rival bidders.
The UDS board yesterday sent another circular to shareholders, contrasting a series of assurances from Bassishaw over the future of the Richard Shops and John Collier chains in particular with the lack of guarantees from Hanson.
Hanson announced yesterday that it has accepted for 10.3 per cent of UDS shares, although its bid does not close until Friday. With prior holdings and a further 250,000 shares bought yesterday, this gives Hanson 22.75 per cent of UDS.
Bassishaw controls 15 per cent and the board about 1 per cent.
Bassishaw's bid closes on May 6.

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British Steel cuts loss to £6m a week

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

British Steel has cut its losses by a third but is still losing money at the rate of £6m a week, the corporation has told its workers.
In the latest issue of Steel News, the BSC newspaper, the corporation's advisers said: "Without industrial peace, all our efforts and the currency exchange rates will not enable us to put an end to the losses which threaten our future."
The BSC said that the strikes in its South Yorkshire division, caused by the announcement of compulsory redundancies, could undermine the recovery. Progress could also be hit by failure to cash in on the BSC's "greatly improved" levels of efficiency and cost competitiveness and the pound's drop against other currencies.
"Our share of the United Kingdom market is better than for a long time, but demand for that market is still so weak that our bigger share is of little account yet."
The corporation, which in January saw its losses climb to £9m a week following the collapse of steel demand last year, has been given until March 1985 to break even and a revised corporate plan for the next three years is still being studied by Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of Industry.
The full extent of the deterioration of the world's steel industries is highlighted in the latest OECD bulletin of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development which shows that output among member countries fell by 63n tonnes last year. This was 16 per cent down on 1981. Average annual rate of capacity utilization declined from 69 per cent in 1981 to 58 per cent and employment dropped by an unprecedented 10 per cent with 150,000 steel workers losing their jobs.
Steel exports to developing countries declined, but the main cause of the industry's problems was a drop of more than 14 per cent in demand in the OECD area.

World debt level reflects caution Bank lending growth slackens

By Michael Prest

Caution about the state of the international financial system restrained the rate at which lending by banks in leading industrial countries grew during the final quarter of 1982. Withdrawals by members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries continued and lending to Latin America declined for the first time since 1977.
In its report on International Banking Developments for the last three months of 1982, the Bank for International Settlements, which is based in Basel and acts as a kind of central bankers' central bank, says that the period normally sees an acceleration in lending.
But the total external assets of reporting banks in the 14 largest industrial nations grew by only \$35,500m (£21,600m) in the quarter. Measured in constant dollars this was half the rate of the preceding three months and just a third of the increase in the final quarter of 1981.
For many banks the financial year is the same as the calendar year. Lending tends to rise towards the end of the year so as to swell balance sheets to a more impressive size in the accounts. The easiest way to window-dress the accounts is inter-bank lending.
But inter-bank lines of credit have been among the most troublesome kind of lending to heavily indebted countries such as Brazil. So worries about the ultimate recipient of such funds cut interbank lending within the reporting area to \$20,000m compared with \$49,000m itself a lower figure in the previous quarter and \$63,500m in the same period of 1981.
The overall result was that the increase in lending by the reporting banks fell last year to \$173,600m from \$264,700m. The total outstanding at the end of the year was \$1,687,000m. The reporting area covers the Group of Ten biggest industrial countries, plus Austria, Denmark, Ireland and Switzerland, and the offshore branches of American banks in the Bahamas, the Cayman Islands, Panama, Hongkong and Singapore.
The rate at which Opec members' deposits are being run down doubled from \$3,800m in the third quarter to \$7,900m in the last quarter. Withdrawals for the year came to a sizeable \$18,300m.
At the same time, lending to developing countries which are not oil producers rose by \$2,000m after falling by \$800m in the third quarter. Against that, lending to Latin America fell by \$1,000m.
Nevertheless, the BIS points out that most of the decline in final lending occurred within the reporting area itself. New international credit to the reporting area was \$10,000m against \$15,500m

Steps 'should be taken to remove BNOC' State oil corporation serves no useful role, says Esso

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

The state-owned British National Oil Corporation should be abolished, according to Esso, one of the largest oil companies in the United Kingdom. BP and Shell, the two other major North Sea oil producing companies, also believe that the oil trading corporation's role in North Sea price-setting should be reviewed in the light of the recent oil price crisis.
In evidence to the Commons Select Committee on Energy, disclosed yesterday, the three companies all argue that the way BNOC is statutorily required to operate has been proved inadequate and inappropriate by the recent fall in oil prices.
Esso said bluntly: "We believe that the reasons which led to the formation of BNOC are no longer valid, and BNOC serves no useful role as a government agency and steps should be taken to remove it."
However, Mr Nigel Lawson, Secretary of State for Energy, defended the role played by BNOC and the Government over the last two months in seeking to stabilize world oil prices. Britain had no power to set the North Sea price in defiance of market forces, he told the MPs, but had used its influence to help avoid damaging violent fluctuations in the price. "But we will do no deals with Opec," he repeated.
The need for a thorough review of BNOC's role has become increasingly evident in recent weeks, as Opec has struggled to avoid a violent price cut. The views of the three



Lawson: defended BNOC's role

oil companies - between them they produce more than 50 per cent of all North Sea - are the most explicit call so far for its role to be changed.
While the corporation was retained by the present govern-

ment to secure British oil supplies in the event of future shortages, its obligation to handle more than one million barrels a day of North Sea crude at a time of oil surplus and falling prices has proved to be a difficult and embarrassing one for the Government.

Esso said that BNOC was faced with an "almost impossible" trading role by having to buy large amounts of participation oil on term contracts and having to re-sell it on a short-term contract basis.
This put BNOC in a "financially-vulnerable position and said Esso, "its trading function can clearly be performed efficiently and effectively by the market place."
Shell argued that the United Kingdom could do little to influence developments in the

world market when prices were stable, but in times of shortage and uncertainty it found itself unduly exposed. "By having to dispose of all participation oil, BNOC appears to have had conferred upon it a times of uncertainty a price leadership role which surely was not envisaged at the time of its formation."
BP contended that BNOC faced "major difficulties in carrying out its oil trading role in view of the diverse nature and aims of its many suppliers and customers. Its need to fix a single North Sea price was particularly inflexible, and this should be changed."
Mr Lawson believes that no changes in BNOC's structure can be achieved realistically until the present turbulent market conditions have abated.

State borrowing target 'at risk'

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

There is a higher than usual risk that public borrowing will significantly exceed the Government's £3,000m target for 1983-84, making fiscal policy more relaxed than planned, the London Business School says today. It suggests this may add to pressures next year from rising world inflation and the lower pound.
The main criticism in its post-Budget assessment concerns the small contingency reserve and the explicit allowance for underspend on departmental budgets, used to dampen the Government's spending projections.
The LBS, whose broadly monetarist economic thinking is close to that of the Government, says that, unlike last year, costs are unlikely to fall below expectations while departments, having gained more experience of how cash limits operate, will spend closer to their budgets.
The LBS assessment was written before the revelation last week that the Government, contrary to the

Savoy Hotel goes £1.8m into profit

By Our Financial Staff

Sir Hugh Wootton's Savoy Hotel group reported a £2.4m profit improvement for last year. The Savoy, whose hotel chain includes Claridges and the Connaught, has moved from a loss of £604,000 in 1981 to a profit of £1.8m last year.
The first compliment yesterday on this about-turn came from Lord Forte, chairman of Trusthouse Forte, the world's biggest hotel chain which has designs on acquiring the Savoy Group.
Lord Forte commented: "Part of this improvement is due to further sales of assets. But my company (THF) being by far the largest shareholder, I am glad to see some progress being made. I hope it continues."
Mr Giles Shepherd, managing director of the Savoy, admitted that £1m of the improved profit came from a reduction in interest charges after the sale of some of the Savoy Hotel frontage on the Strand to a subsidiary of Ladbroke group. "But", he pointed out, "the other £1.4m has come from better profit from operations. It is expected that the present year will show a further improvement."
To reinforce its faith in its prospects, the Savoy Group has increased its dividend substantially - shareholders this year get 30 per cent more than they did last year.
Investors' Notebook, page 23

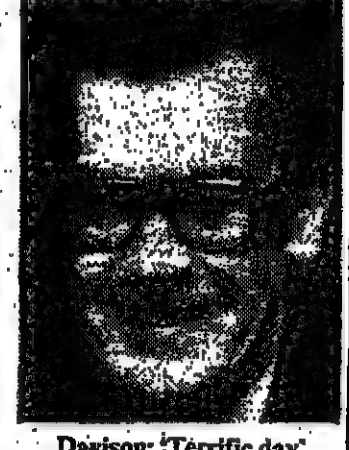


Lord Forte: first compliment

Lloyd's hires experts for new controls

By Andrew Cornelius

Mr Ian Davison, the chief executive of Lloyd's of London, is hiring three advisers at a cost of £100,000 a year to smooth the introduction of self-regulation measures for the insurance market.
The advisers have been drawn from Whitehall and the legal and accountancy professions and will report directly to Mr Davison, who was brought in to improve the image of the market two months ago. Mr Davison hinted yesterday that he would further expand the advisory team if opportunities arise. He said the appointments made it "a terrific day for Lloyd's".
The three advisers are Mr Philip Brown, who is due to retire as head of the Department of Trade's insurance division; Mr David Stebbings, a former senior partner of Freshfields, a firm of solicitors; and a member of the Higgins working party on dividend and divorce of interests at Lloyd's; and Mr Richard Wilkes, a senior partner of Price Waterhouse, the accountancy firm, and a past president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants.
Mr Davison said that the appointments would reduce Lloyd's annual spending of over £5m on fees to outside professionals. He stressed that the appointments were made by him and the ruling council.
Mr Brown, who is an expert on company law through his involvement in drafting several



Davison: 'Terrific day'

Strikes restaurants for USM

By Sally White

Strikes London hamburger restaurant chain, is to be launched on the unlisted securities market by its parent company, Comfort Hotels, which will retain 90 per cent of the equity. Dealings are expected to start next Monday.
The launch is via a placing of 600,000 shares by bankers Henry Ansbacher and brokers Vickers de Costa. The company says once a market has been established in the shares they will be used to finance further expansion. The placing was at 47p.
Strikes has 23 outlets, of which 18 trade under the name of Strikes, four as American Strikes and one as a franchised Wimpy Bar.
Pretax profits for 1982 were £648,000 on a turnover of £5.03m. On that basis dividends of 1.35p would have been paid, giving a yield at the placing price of 4.1 per cent.

Imperial cuts sale price

Imperial Group, the tobacco and brewing combine, has slashed £9m off the selling price of the poultry, egg and meat businesses it sold to the privately owned Hilsdon Holdings last May.
Hilsdon had then agreed to pay £48.2m for the businesses which include such well-known names as Buxted chickens of which £19.2m was paid at once and £29m was to have been paid over four years. This balance has now been reduced to £20m but it will have to be paid off in full by next October.
The new price reflects the fact that Hilsdon was not totally happy with what it discovered after the purchase. Since last May it has been forced into a substantial rationalization, coupled with write-offs and redundancies, particularly at Buxted, and at one stage, according to the Imperial Group annual accounts, it was considering trying to reclaim £2.4m from Imperial to compensate for these costs.
It now seems happy with the £9m.

ROBECO HIGHER VALUATION FOR SHARES

Robeco, incorporated in the Netherlands in 1933, is an equity trust aiming to strike a balance between the provision of a substantial dividend each year with a reasonable appreciation in capital value.
Assets are widely spread over some 15 countries, with the emphasis

currently on the U.S.A. (38.3%), Japan (12.5%) and Dutch Internationals (14.3%).
For further details write to: Robeco N.V., dept. 382, P.O. Box 973, 3000 AZ Rotterdam, Holland.



Since the beginning of this year, the value of Robeco shares on the London Stock Exchange has risen by 20% to £69 1/4 at the end of March, 1983, on the back of a favourable climate prevailing on almost all Stock Exchanges.

The fall both in inflation and interest rates, coupled with the first signs of economic recovery in the U.S., were the major factors contributing to investors' optimism.

The strongly increased interest in equities led both to higher stock quotations and price/earnings ratios. Rises on the Amsterdam Exchange, in particular, were remarkable.

Robeco was a net seller in American and Canadian stocks. Its principal purchases were in Germany and the Far East.

The above has been taken from the quarterly report published on 31st March, 1983.

APPOINTMENTS

Regional chief at Midland

Mr Jacques de Mandat-Grancy has been appointed Latin American regional director at Midland Bank International in London.

Mr Michael Gibson has become deputy director, marketing, of Lloyds Bowmaker Finance Group. He was previously group marketing manager.

Dr R. R. Boxall has been appointed research and development director of Gallaher Tobacco.

Mr Peter Prior has joined the board of Holden Hydroman as a non-executive director.

Mr Mike Sprague has been appointed director of international operations for Nairn International, responsible for Australia, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland and the US.

Mr David Claxton, managing director of Courage Take Home Trade, has joined the Courage board.

Mr Peter Ballard has become company secretary of Henry Ansbacher Holdings.

Mr Senmas Cowley is to become underwriter for the G.I. Towers Marine Syndicate.

Mr David Jehu has joined Securplan as director of operations and Mr C. Brian Williams becomes director of sales.

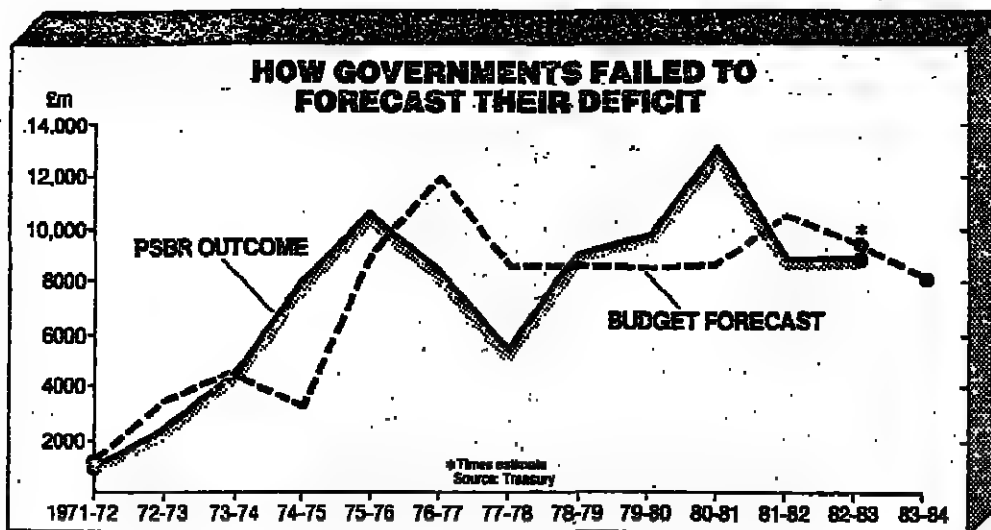
Sir Robert Douglas has resigned as chairman but remains a non-executive director of Rapid Metal Developments (Aust).

Mr D. J. Lemon, managing director, is appointed chairman. New non-executive directors are Mr J. R. T. Douglas, chairman and managing director of the Douglas Group, Mr R. J. Mierisch, managing director of A. W. Baulderstone, and Mr K. J. Cadman, managing director of Rapid Metal Developments. Mr S. A. Sedgwick joins the board of Douglas Environmental Engineering as director and general manager.

Mr R. J. Wilson has been appointed managing director of the Pacific Air Company. Mr Maynard Hamilton sales director of Gesteira Holdings.

Mr E. Q. Bashforth and Mr T. G. Robson have been appointed directors of Hickson and Welch.

Frances Williams on Treasury's surprise at spending spree



How public borrowing defies the art of forecasting

The chart has another interesting feature. Government forecasting errors clearly go in cycles, with two or three years of underprediction followed by two or three years of overprediction. After two years of forecasts higher than outcome has the Government been too optimistic for 1983-84?

Only 40 per cent spending is amenable to strict control

suggest. The latest figures appear to support their view.

Government departments' spending at the eleventh hour to spend up to their permitted cash limits, in sharp contrast to Treasury expectations of a significant underspend. What the money was spent on we do not yet know. Redecorating the offices is a traditional play. Paying bills early another.

But this year's overall spending has been held down partly by inclusion of a £1,200m allowance for shortfall included, we are told, on the basis of experience with the cash limit system.

As Sir Douglas Warr told *The Times* last month a few days before he retired as head of the Treasury: "When you get a government which is very strict on its programme managers who overshoot, then you will get persistent underspending."

That experience has been confounded. If, as some believe, the March figures are becoming clearer at managing the cash limit system there may again be no shortfall in 1983-84.

This is all the more likely since inflation will be higher than the 5 per cent assumed when the spending plans were drawn up, putting upward pressure on programme costs. In addition, the Government's critics say the contingency reserve, the smallest for some years at only £1,500m (of which £400m has already been allocated), may prove inadequate, forcing Whitehall to go over Budget to finance needed unforeseen expenditure. Officials, not unreasonably, take a more robust view. They

argue that much of the last-minute spending may simply have been brought forward, giving departments more leg room this year. A rise in the inflation rate does not necessarily signify a similar rise in government costs. And the spending spurge, by its very nature, must have gone on one-off projects rather than to finance longer-term commitments with carryover implications for the present year.

Evidence points to overshoot of borrowing forecast

At worst, they say, spending can exceed plans only by the amount allowed for shortfall, because cash limits cannot be exceeded without the Treasury's say-so.

Claiming that previous years' contingency reserves were unnecessarily high, officials say simply that if in the event there are not enough funds left in the kitty requests for extra spending will not be turned down. In an

election year, however, this could prove hard to do. Other factors may work in the Government's favour. Many analysts expect local authorities again to spend less than planned on capital projects.

In addition, economic recovery is likely to help keep spending down. This is less because of reduced spending on unemployment benefits — unemployment is not expected to fall significantly if at all this year, though some optimism is voiced privately by officials — but because reduced financial pressure on companies means they tend to press their claims for payment from government less urgently.

Higher growth also means higher tax revenues. It is the economic cycle rather than adaptive behaviour by civil servants which is thought to lie behind the cyclical pattern of forecasting errors. Forecasts tend to be too low when the economy sinks into recession and too high when it is on its way up. On this basis, another year of undershoot is likely. But there have been exceptions.

The burden of evidence points to an overshoot of the Treasury's 1983-84 borrowing forecast. But if it is overshoot, as widely expected, the implications are, if anything, benign. It will give a small boost to demand, aiding recovery from recession. The financial markets, meanwhile, are unlikely to look askance at a budget deficit which remains the smallest proportion of national income of any leading industrial country, despite high and rising unemployment.

Certainly, a mini-Budget to put a gently surging PSBR back on target looks improbable. Apart from the evident political difficulties of raising rates or cutting spending in the run-up to an election, the Chancellor has relatively few practical options available which have rapid effect.

Spending taxes can be changed quickly, but not those on incomes; public programmes can be cut but rarely stopped in mid-year.

The problems of predicting the PSBR, and the Government's inability to target it accurately, inevitably prompt criticism that it is an unsuitable policy objective. But the Government sees no inconsistency between its desire to reduce borrowing over the longer term and year-to-year fluctuations.

"Just because a darts player does not always hit bullseye," one senior official said "does not mean he should not aim for the centre of the board."

Cry for shipyard jobs lifebuoy

The traditional "sunset" industries are a pain in the neck for Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Industry Secretary. However much he tries to brush them under the carpet in favour of the glamorous "sunrise" sectors of high technology, they persist in creeping back into the public consciousness with embarrassing reminders that they are big employers and often needy of huge amounts of public cash.

Yesterday produced a prime example. Across the table at the Department of Industry's headquarters in London's Victoria Street sat Sir Robert Atkinson, outgoing chairman of British Shipbuilders, who made no excuses for demand that his stricken industry be designated a special case.

Mr Jenkin and Mr Norman Lamont, his shipbuilding minister, have little choice but to accede if they want to avoid another round of redundancies in the yards that could reach 9,000 on top of the 3,000 already announced this year.

In an election year Mr Jenkin really afford to see more commodities, admittedly not in Tory strongholds, devastated and the country subjected to another bout of depressing news of big industrial "chances"? For that, in essence, is Sir Robert's message.

He has asked for a package of emergency measures to tide over his industry until new orders begin to flow again. These proposals are temporary and designed to meet the present crisis which is hitting shipbuilding throughout the world.

The Government has already pumped more than £600m into shipbuilding since it came into office and recently increased the corporation's external financing limit from £122m this year to £160m for 1983-84. The Shipbuilding Intervention Fund, introduced at the time of nationalization in 1977 to bridge the gap between British and Far East prices, now totals £355m.

£20,000-a-year Mr J. Graham Day, has £40m of Intervention Fund money to play with this year, but so far has managed to use only £13m.

The problem is that yards in countries like South Korea are satisfying their masters' hunger for foreign exchange by quoting prices on new ships that are unbeatable, even in Japan, and subsidies such as those provided by Britain's Intervention Fund are at best inadequate.

Dumping by Far Eastern shipyards becomes even more inevitable at a time of world recession. Last year, new shipbuilding orders fell by almost 50 per cent, says the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The answer for Britain surely is not to pour money into the Intervention Fund allocated to the shipyards of some far-flung developing country's shipyards but into measures that will ensure work at competitive, but realistic, rates for British yards.

The Government should take a leaf out of the Japanese book and give "special protection" to the shipyards in that country, are called special self-defence force vessels, patrol boats and fisheries training vessels.

This is the sort of emergency measure for which Sir Robert is trying to gain approval from Mr Jenkin. Without a positive decision by the Government to grant special credits arrangements to domestic ship owners and to fund other actions such as the mothballing of yards until better times arrive and the payment of more attractive redundancy money, Sir Robert — and later, Mr Day — will have difficulty in persuading the remnants of the country's shipbuilding workforce to accept a pay freeze and exhortations to improve productivity.

At the Govan yard on the Clyde, where there are new orders, the mood of shipbuilding workers throughout the country was summed up last week by a shop steward who dismissed as futile any move to begin a strike against further cuts. The battle, he warned, was against the Government.

Edward Townsend

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| 41. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 41. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 41. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 42. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 42. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 42. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 43. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 43. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 43. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 44. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 44. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 44. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 45. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 45. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 45. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 46. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 46. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 46. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 47. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 47. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 47. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 48. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 48. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 48. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 49. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 49. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 49. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 50. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 50. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 50. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 51. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 51. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 51. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 52. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 52. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 52. British American Assurance Co. Ltd. Unit Trust | 100.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |

THE TIMES 1000
1982/1983

The World's Top Companies
The 1000 leading companies in the world, ranked by sales, are listed in this special section. The list includes companies from all major industries and countries, providing a comprehensive overview of global business leadership.

Available from bookshops or direct at £10.50 including postage from
TIMES BOOKS LTD 16 Golden Square, London, W1.

1982/83 High Low Stock Price Change Yield

BRITISH FUNDS

| 1982/83 | High | Low | Stock | Price | Change | Yield |
|---------|------|------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

| 1982/83 | High | Low | Stock | Price | Change | Yield |
|---------|------|------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

| 1982/83 | High | Low | Stock | Price | Change | Yield |
|---------|------|------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |

DOLLAR STOCKS

| 1982/83 | High | Low | Stock | Price | Change | Yield |
|---------|------|------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

| 1982/83 | High | Low | Stock | Price | Change | Yield |
|---------|------|------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |

BREWERS AND DISTILLERS

| 1982/83 | High | Low | Stock | Price | Change | Yield |
|---------|------|------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

| 1982/83 | High | Low | Stock | Price | Change | Yield |
|---------|------|------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |

A-B

| 1982/83 | High | Low | Stock | Price | Change | Yield |
|---------|------|------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |

C-D

| 1982/83 | High | Low | Stock | Price | Change | Yield |
|---------|------|------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |

E-F

| 1982/83 | High | Low | Stock | Price | Change | Yield |
|---------|------|------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |

The big wheel-dealers on Wall Street appear to have paid to any hopes of the FT Index topping the 700 level for the time being at least.

Yesterday our own market men looked on helplessly as Britain's blue chip stock were given the skelter treatment by American investors. Having coaxed the likes of ICI and Glaxo to seal new heights they suddenly pulled the rug from under them, for no apparent reason, and washed their hands of the subsequent bloodbath.

"They buy at any price, and they sell at any price" was how one disgruntled dealer summed it up.

Whatever the reason for their actions it was enough to send the equity market into a ragged retreat with Glaxo closing 18p lower at 935p, having hit £10 at one stage, while Beecham finished 7p lower at 403p, after 415p. Only ICI managed to retain some of its early gains closing 10p higher at 444p, after 450p, ahead of first quarter figures next week. These are expected to show profits up from £62m to more than £90m after an improvement in pharmaceuticals and reduced losses at its petrochemical division.

Glits encountered nervous selling with falls of up to 1/2p at the longer end of the market prompted by the loss of 1 cent for the pound on the foreign exchange to end the day at

1.5520. The Government broker is believed still to have ample supplies of the new "tap" with less than half of the £1,000m of stock taken up when dealings started last week.

On the front, shares of Marlex jumped 4p to 62p on the news that Canada Northwest had made an offer by tender for the oil exploration group with interests in the Humble Grove consortium in Hampshire. CN had already bought 4 million shares from Mr Andrew Fish, director of Marlex, amounting to 14.8 per cent of the equity at an undisclosed sum.

Mr Fish has also given the group a voting trust on his remaining 2 million shares for 18 months.

At last night's close, Marlex was valued at £16.7m. Humphries Holdings, the film developers and printers of cinema films, have received an approach from Technicolor, the

US filmgroup and are now involved in talks to decide on a price. Last night, Humphries closed 17p dearer at 50p valuing it at just under £4 million. BET with 75.37 per cent of the shares, and presently bidding for the minority shares in Rediffusion, 7p lower at 238p.

Shares of Blackwood Hedge, the construction equipment sales company, fell by 4p to 20p after a delay in releasing preliminary figures for 1982. Sir William Shapland, chairman, said that the delay is due to technical problems associated with auditing the results which he now expects to publish on Friday.

Bellair Cosmetics continued to fluctuate wildly as investors awaited news of the talks which may lead to a bid. After dipping as low as 50p the shares ended the day 2p higher at 62p. Shares of Mills & Allen International rose 39p to 400p

Equities on the retreat

ACCOUNT DAY: Dealings began, April 11. Dealings end, April 25. Contango Day, April 25. Settlement Day, May 3.

In the event, the FT Index ended at its low point for the day down 9.8 at 685.2, wiping out an earlier gain of 1.6. Last night, dealers were becoming increasingly sceptical that the index would achieve its goal this week with only three days of the current account left to run.

With shares of London Bridge hovering just short of the year's high the institutions appear to have decided to take profits. Yesterday several large lines of stock went through the market in excess of half a million shares. The price closed 5 1/2p lower at 152.

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Meanwhile, shares of Lovin and a successful start to dealings on the Unlisted Securities Market. The price opened at 113p compared with a placing price of 80p.

Also due to make a start in dealing on the USM on Monday are shares of Spring Ram, the bathroom and home improvement specialists. County Bank has arranged for a placing 2.2 million shares at 105p a share representing 21.47 per cent of the equity. This capitalises the group, headed by Mr. Bill Rooney, former chief of Hygiene fitted kitchens, at £11m and makes them one of the top dozen companies quoted on the USM. Dealings are expected to open at between 135p and 150p.

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after news that Providence Capital Life Assurance had sold its stake of 3.5 million shares. Brokers Laurie Millbank and Rowe & Pitman sold the shares in the market 384p. PCLA has also sold 701,000 shares in MAI paid following the recent rights issue and 774,000 all paid shares in Sime Darby London. Both parcels of shares were sold at the 95p level. But PCLA still own 3.8 million shares in Sime amounting to 9.8 per cent of the equity.

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RECENT ISSUES

| Company | Issue Size | Issue Price | Issue Date |
|------------------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| Amalgamated 25p | 100,000 | 100p | 1983 |
| Associated British 25p | 100,000 | 100p | 1983 |
| Brook 3p | 100,000 | 100p | 1983 |
| Chambers 25p | 100,000 | 100p | 1983 |
| Granger 25p | 100,000 | 100p | 1983 |
| H & B 25p | 100,000 | 100p | 1983 |
| Imperial 25p | 100,000 | 100p | 1983 |
| Marshall 25p | 100,000 | 100p | 1983 |
| Max 25p | 100,000 | 100p | 1983 |
| North 25p | 100,000 | 100p | 1983 |
| Overseas 25p | 100,000 | 100p | 1983 |
| Reckitt 25p | 100,000 | 100p | 1983 |
| Shaw 25p | 100,000 | 100p | 1983 |
| St. James 25p | 100,000 | 100p | 1983 |
| Thames 25p | 100,000 | 100p | 1983 |
| Wentworth 25p | 100,000 | 100p | 1983 |
| Wright 25p | 100,000 | 100p | 1983 |

Issue price in parentheses & listed securities

1982/83 High Low Company Price Change Yield

| 1982/83 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield |
|---------|------|------|---------|-------|--------|-------|
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |

SHIPPING

| 1982/83 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield |
|---------|------|------|---------|-------|--------|-------|
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |

MINES

| 1982/83 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield |
|---------|------|------|---------|-------|--------|-------|
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |

OIL

| 1982/83 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield |
|---------|------|------|---------|-------|--------|-------|
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

| 1982/83 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield |
|---------|------|------|---------|-------|--------|-------|
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |

INSURANCE

| 1982/83 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield |
|---------|------|------|---------|-------|--------|-------|
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

| 1982/83 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield |
|---------|------|------|---------|-------|--------|-------|
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |

PROPERTY

| 1982/83 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Yield |
|---------|------|------|---------|-------|--------|-------|
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |

Shanipour can measure up to a tall reputation

By Michael Seely

Both flat racing and jumping are trying for today's headlines. Cheltenham features the Anglo-Irish jockeys challenge match, sponsored by Courage. And if the go-ahead is given after a 7.30 inspection at Epsom, our top trainers will be testing each other's classic defences in the Warren Stakes, run over the Derby course and distance.

Michael Webster, the assistant clerk of the course, said yesterday: "If there is no overnight rain racing should be possible as it is such a quick-drying course."

Yesterday's Blue Riband Trial Stakes will, however, not be incorporated in the programme. "We discussed the matter with the sponsors, Epsom, yesterday and have decided that it was not worth while. Support from trainers has been poor and only five horses were declared. It can be seen that professionally the race could have been extremely interesting but it would hardly have been an office exercise."

The professionals concerned take a diametrically-opposed point of view. Gray Harwood, the trainer of Gormley, said: "We cannot afford to lose these classic trials, especially the ones with pattern race status. There is an obvious conflict of interests. Racecourse executives are paying customers and are probably correct in their assumption that the running of this race would not attract a much larger crowd through the turnstiles. The trainers on the other hand programme their horses for pattern events and have legitimate grounds for grievance if every effort is not made to help them."

In the past years the winners of the Warren Stakes, Glint and Old Country, have gone on to triumph in the Italian Derby. Glint, a Gold's trainer, Ian Balding, is in fine form this season and his runner, Broom, is going to take

some beating. So, too, is Henry Cecil's John French. The latter was cleverly placed to win four races last season and is reported to be well forward, as is Bruce Hobbs's The Liquidator, who showed himself to be a useful three-year-old in the making when beating Herodote by three lengths at Newmarket last autumn.

John Dunlop's Kempton winner Harry is another to be considered in a competitive affair. However, a preference is for the well thought of Shanipour, who is worth another chance after his disappointing run behind Welsh Idol at Haydock.

The City and Suburban Handicap may be won by Morality Stone. Last Saturday Philip Mitchell's six-year-old caused a 50-1 surprise when beating Portlough and Lion City in the Newbury Spring Cup. A representative of that season should have worked perfectly satisfactory at Ballydoyle in the morning, but that no decision about the Northern Dancer colt's participation in the Cheltenham race was taken until after the Epsom race on Saturday.

Ladbrooke's make Mid Day Cup, a first-class feature in the Grand National, is scheduled for 11-12 for the Whitbread Gold Cup at Sandown on Saturday. The 21 acceptors at the four-day stage for this spectacular steeplechase include Lady's winner, Shady Deal, and Greatcup, who is so narrowly

RACING



Ian Balding: in form.

defeated by Corbiere in the National. Horses who have won in good style since the publication of the weights include Richdee and Pauline. There are no penalties for this race, so both horses must be considered well handicapped.

The Tote make the British team of jockeys favourites at 11-8 on to beat their Irish opponents at Cheltenham. Peter Scudamore, captain of the quartet which consists of Steve Smith, Eddies, Hywel Davis and Chris Grant. Ron Barry heads the Irish contingent which is completed by John O'Neill, Frank Berry and Tommy Carmody.

Scudamore is 15-8 favourite for the jockeys' title with the same firm, who offer O'Neill at 4-1 and Davis and Barry at 5-1.

The odds against Davies look particularly attractive. His chance of winning the Courage Best Handicap Chase on David Baron's entry, Liverpool winner, King of Country, is obvious. But the Tote may have made an error of judgment in offering 10-1 against Shady Dove, Davies' mount in the Courage Directors Handicap Hurdle.

Ridden by Cecil Price, Shady Dove showed great courage when defying 12-5 at Bangor on Dec 1st. Scudamore, who was the Cup winner Desert Hero is a worthy favourite at 3-1 but it would appear to require an act of Parliament to prevent Shady Dove from finishing in the first three with only eight runners.

● The Sedgemoor meeting scheduled for yesterday was cancelled because of waterlogging.

Forbidden Fruit is sweet for Eton boy

Point-to-point, by Ian Reid

Giles Smyth, a 16-year-old Eton schoolboy who won the Haydock Adjuvant Hunt race a week ago on his first ride, Forbidden Fruit, returned to win the Novice Riders' Open on the same horse at the Hunt's second meeting yesterday. Smyth seemed to Eton today. His mother told him that his tutor had advised him always to read *The Times*. "Perhaps if he appears in *The Times* tomorrow," she added, "he will be allowed the occasional day off to ride in another point-to-point."

Forbidden Fruit and Wellington bridge set such a strong pace that the firm favourite, Brodie Law, ridden by Teresa Webster, was left with too much to do, although he passed Wellingtonbridge on the run in.

All the profits from this meeting are going to the Grand National Appeal Fund. Among the guests of the past, who presided after the second race were Corbiere, Gittar, Sparan Missile, Red Rum, Crisp, Spanish Steps and The Diller, as well as his two sons, even the challenge of the added weight of James Delahouke, joint secretary of the Whaddens, at his hunt's postponed meeting at Little Horwood last Saturday. Having seen the members' race with Go Straight, ridden by young Mark Brown, his Jack of All Trades, with Tom Hilly, with the added weight of the Spartans, in a three-horse

Delahouke looked sure to complete a treble with the classy and greatly fancied Border Bug in the restricted open. But Tom Hilly lost his iron at the third fence, and, although he performed miracles in staying about and steering the hard-pulling favourite, an over bold leap at the third from home had him on the floor. James Terry on Barbara's Bunny then took command, but they came down at the next, leaving Mrs Annis Garfield to center at her leisure on Percy Duckett.

In the Belvoir Open at Gorbory, Boomerang, ridden by Peter Green, jumped the last fence level with Hemsshaw and Towrante, but the champion's strength from the saddle won the race. The winner was a Mullah skipper by Dec de Boldece, who dug his toes in and then refused three fences out, the champion provided another fine race. Officers' Respect set a scorching pace, but Vulgarism, competently handled by Bill Strawson, gradually pegged back his long lead, winning clearly by length in a fast time.

John Llewellyn started the day one behind Peter Greenall in the leading riders' table at the Glamorgan put him one in front by the evening. Jenny Pidgeon rode the winner of the 'Purcell Ladies' Open for the fourth successive year - on Zanzibar she also finished second in 1978. No wonder Bedydy Kings is her favourite.

Berry maintains his strike rate

Jack Berry's 41-1 double with Lady Carr and Blackpool Belle at the Doncaster yearling sales, yesterday, the type to go to the heavy ground. But the following day last Wednesday's 10-length Hamilton win with another comfortable victory in the Forget Me Not Selling Stakes.

Kevin Darley led the way on Blackpool Belle and made much of the running on Lady Carr, who, understandably, was also well served by the champion, revealed the going to hand the Cyclamen Maiden Stakes.

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Epsom

Draw advantage: Low numbers best.

[Television (ITV) 2.35, 3.10 and 3.40.]

Total Double 3.10, 4.10, Treble 2.35, 3.40, 4.45.

2.0 BANSTED STAKES (2-Y-O maidens: £1,693; 5f) (6 runners)

1 1100 CAPTAIN'S GIFT (S. Crowl) 9-4
2 1000 CAPTAIN'S GIFT (S. Crowl) 9-4
3 1000 CAPTAIN'S GIFT (S. Crowl) 9-4
4 1000 CAPTAIN'S GIFT (S. Crowl) 9-4
5 1000 CAPTAIN'S GIFT (S. Crowl) 9-4
6 1000 CAPTAIN'S GIFT (S. Crowl) 9-4

2.35 WARREN STAKES (3-Y-O: £4,702; 1m 4f) (8 runners)

1 201 41111-1 JOHN FRENCH (S. Crowl) 9-4
2 201 41111-1 JOHN FRENCH (S. Crowl) 9-4
3 201 41111-1 JOHN FRENCH (S. Crowl) 9-4
4 201 41111-1 JOHN FRENCH (S. Crowl) 9-4
5 201 41111-1 JOHN FRENCH (S. Crowl) 9-4
6 201 41111-1 JOHN FRENCH (S. Crowl) 9-4

2.0 CITY AND SUBURBAN HANDICAP (4,084; 1m 2f) (13 runners)

1 201 41111-1 JOHN FRENCH (S. Crowl) 9-4
2 201 41111-1 JOHN FRENCH (S. Crowl) 9-4
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Cheltenham NH

Total: double 3.5, 4.25, Treble: 2.30, 4.30, 5.0

[Television (BBC1) 2.30, 3.5 and 4.40 races]

2.0 CHARLES TURNER HUNTERS CHASE (amateurs: £1,898; 3m 2f) (15 runners)

1 1100 BALLEST MASTER (S. Crowl) 9-4
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La crème de la crème

Executive Secretary

An excellent opportunity to join Foster Wheeler Petroleum Development Limited, who are well established as a leading offshore engineering company.

We are presently looking for an experienced Secretary for our President and Chief Executive. Commitment and a responsible attitude are very important qualities. You will be a true professional, possessing excellent secretarial skills with a minimum of 5 years' experience at Director level. You must be able to organise a busy executive's diary, take minutes; be able to work on your own initiative and capable of communicating effectively at all levels.

As reward for your skills, a competitive salary will be paid together with an attractive benefits package. Our pleasant air-conditioned offices are located in the West End, close to Tottenham Court Road and Leicester Square tube stations. Please telephone: Rion Hennessey on 01-836 8030, ext 2082, or write to her with your career details at Foster Wheeler Petroleum Development Limited, 125 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8AD.



SECRETARY/PA

International Hotel Development

This position offers the opportunity of becoming involved in the exciting business of acquiring, developing and managing new hotels worldwide, and will provide ample scope for initiative.

You will be both secretary and right-hand assistant to the Development Director of Forum Hotels - a division of International Hotels - with increasing emphasis on the PA role as the job progresses.

This position demands an excellent telephone manner and a fair measure of confidence, initiative and organisational ability and, of course, good secretarial skills including shorthand/audiotape, and word processing. A knowledge of European languages would be an added advantage. It is unlikely that a secretary under the age of 23 would have the degree of maturity required.

We offer an excellent salary and conditions of employment to the right applicant. Please send a detailed C.V. to Jennifer Hennessey, Development Director, Forum Hotels, Dorland House, 14/16 Regent Street, London SW1Y 4PH.



SECRETARY/PERSONAL ASSISTANT

The Deputy to the Secretary General of the Chartered Insurance Institute requires a highly motivated, energetic and experienced Secretary/PA to assist in the day-to-day running of the Institute. The position involves a wide range of administrative and secretarial duties, including the preparation of reports, minutes, correspondence, and the management of the Institute's public relations. The successful candidate will be a proactive, organised and efficient professional with a minimum of 5 years' experience in a similar role. A knowledge of insurance is an advantage. Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications. Please send your CV to: The Secretary General, The Chartered Insurance Institute, 20 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

SECRETARY/RESEARCHER

£7,750 + benefits

An enquiring mind for research with 5 years solid commercial experience are the essential qualities to join this highly successful management consultancy. An intelligent public school educated secretary will find working for this extremely pleasant partner demanding but rewarding. Good skills (100/60) and age late 20's. Please telephone Joanna Athorne or Suzanne de Berniere on 01-493 5787.

GORDON YATES Ltd
35 Old Bond St. W.1.

Secretary/Financial PR

Expanding City based Financial PR Company seeks senior secretary/PA (25-40), for highly pressured MD. The applicant should preferably have PR experience and may well have knowledge of the City & Investment community, salary £7,500. Phone Lynne/Janice on 583 5466 (no agencies please)

In At The Start
Up to £7,500

Senior Secretaries

PARTNER'S SECRETARY

AGE 25-35

We are a large professional firm with superb offices situated near LONDON BRIDGE STATION and we are looking for a well-educated Secretary to work at partner level. You should be self-motivated, with fast accurate audio typing (shorthand is useful), have the ability to communicate effectively and to occasionally work under pressure. The position requires previous experience at senior level and preferably in a professional office.

We offer a good salary, excellent company benefits including pension scheme, staff restaurant and many sporting and social activities.

Please forward C.V. giving current salary and daytime telephone number to:

Mrs Irene Bryant,
Price Waterhouse,
Southwark Towers,
32, London Bridge Street,
London SE1 8SY
NO AGENCIES

MD's SECRETARY

THORN EMI Video Limited

We are a leading company in the video industry and are seeking a high-calibre shorthand Secretary for our MD. You must have several years' experience at senior level together with excellent secretarial and administrative skills, the ability to work accurately under pressure and to communicate effectively at all levels.

Located in prestige offices at Leicester Square, we offer an attractive salary and a good range of benefits. Please telephone the Personnel Department on 838 2444, Ext 217 or 154.

Experienced Secretary/Assistant Executive with fluent French for financial and corporate City advertising agency, neg £6,500+

Response Advertising Limited is a small specialist agency handling advertising and related publicity for a range of financial institutions in the UK and abroad.

Applicants should be between 20-30. Duties involve usual secretarial responsibilities (working with the three senior executives), reception and modern switchboard; some clerical work and telephone contact with the agency's clients and suppliers.

Please send CVs to: Simon Collins, Response Advertising Limited, 364-368 Old Street, London, EC1Y 9LT.

CHARLES LETTS & CO LTD.

I am seeking a cheerful, reliable Audio Secretary to assist in the administration and co-ordination of Letts retail publishing operation which includes the editing and design of books and diaries.

It is hoped that you will also handle publishing contracts and assist in the selling of subsidiary rights on books. Training for this will be given.

Applicants must have first class secretarial skills, a high standard of literacy and numeracy and above all, initiative and common sense. Please telephone:

Miss Pat Hennessey Publishing Manager,
Charles Letts & Co. Ltd,
77 Borough Road, London, SE1 1DW
Tel: 01-407 8891 ext. 272.

SECRETARY TO DIRECTOR of Middle Eastern Investment Company

Location W2, must have excellent shorthand and typing and bilingual French/English, be flexible, able to work without supervision and have experience at Director level. The ideal candidate will probably be single, living in London and under 35. Salary is negotiable. Please send full cv to Box No 0898 H The Times marked private and confidential.

PA/SECRETARY WITH LANGUAGES

For Marketing Director of International Research Consultancy, WCI, French essential, accurate shorthand typing. Age 23+. Loss of administrative and typing and assisting with organisation of busy sales office. Circa £7,400 negotiable.

Tel: Diane Gail 278 0414 or write
31 Mount Pleasant, WCL

BI-LINGUAL SECRETARY

This is a post for a first-class, experienced, fluent bi-lingual English/German Secretary with excellent secretarial skills, telex experience, ability to work on own initiative and to cope under pressure. Age pref 30+. Starting salary ca £9,000 pa. Austrian Trade Commission, 1 Hyde Park Gate, London, SW7 5ER.

INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANTS

Secretary to Senior Director

City c. £7,000

Our clients are a leading International firm of Management Consultants. One of the Senior Directors needs a highly committed and experienced secretary. The position offers varied work and involvement in a fast moving high pressure environment requiring extensive contact with clients and colleagues in other countries, consulting and administrative staff.

You should be 25-40 years, and in addition to having fast accurate shorthand and typing have a good educational background, be very well organised with sound administrative skills and have a flexible and adaptable approach. A sense of humour is also important.

Please send brief résumé to:

The Appointments Manager,
Whites Bull Holmes Ltd.,
65-66 St Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4JX.
(quoting ref: 609 on your letter and envelope)

THE LAW SOCIETY SENIOR CONFERENCE ASSISTANT

Our small conference department requires an experienced senior assistant.

This post demands previous experience in planning and organising conferences and a good secretarial background. The successful candidate, male or female, will be expected to work as part of the team as well as manage their own workload for specific activities or conferences. Administrative flair, a pleasant manner, smart appearance, as well as the ability to work under pressure are essential.

Commencing salary within the range £6,025 - £8,452 per depending on age and experience with 23 days annual leave and subsidised staff restaurant. Salary review and season ticket loan after six months service.

Write giving full details of age, educational qualifications, experience and present salary to The Personnel Officer, The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London, WC2A 1PL, by 4th May, 1983.

BRIXTON ESTATE plc

We are a property investment company with luxury offices situated near Holborn S.R. and Chancery Lane tube stations.

A bright and capable Secretary to work for 2 of our managers is required. Excellent shorthand/typing skills are a must, and a knowledge of word processing would be useful, but not essential.

The salary offered is in the region of £7,000 p.a. and other benefits include twice yearly salary reviews, twenty four days annual holiday, BUPA, non-contributory pension scheme, season ticket loan and L.V's.

Please ring Marion Tucker, on
01-831 6331

He'll be in safe hands while I'm away. I'm getting him a temporary from...
Senior Secretaries
CITY 01-408 1874/WEST END 01-499 0092
The first numbers to ring

VIBRANT, OUTGOING PERSONALITY

With strong secretarial skills required as PA to the MD. Promotional career background to date ideal. Excellent career prospects with high degree of autonomy. Company car after 12 months' service. First-class working environment. £8,000 pa basic salary. Age 21-30 only. Applications in writing to the Managing Director's Office, Ref PAB 23, Eurolink Computer Services Ltd, Equity & Law House, 102 Queens Road, Brighton, E Sussex, BN1 3XF.

PA/Secretary

£27,000 London WC1
An experienced Senior Secretary is required to assist the Regional Director of a Cable & Wireless company. He controls the telecommunications planning, engineering and operating services provided to clients in the Middle East, Indian Ocean and Asia, and, as his PA, you must be capable of acting independently on your own initiative during his absence. Spends of 140/85 will be rewarded by a substantial proficiency allowance, but 100/80 is acceptable. Excellent benefits accompany the salary quoted.

Write with full C.V. to: Michael Redford, PER, 4-5 Grosvenor Place London SW1X 7ES.

SECRETARY/PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Required for Managing Director of Office Planning and Design Consultancy. CE Planning is a small, friendly office in South Kensington. Applicants should have excellent typing, a knowledge of book-keeping and a good telephone manner. Salary £7,000 p.a. plus profit share.

Please phone Rosie Packer 589 8226

TWO SENIOR SECRETARIES

Small friendly team requires two secretaries (in late twenties/early thirties) with stable work records and initiative, preferably with a marketing and/or PR background. Languages useful.

Salaries are negotiable.

Candidates are invited to send their cv to Ms. C. Throssell, Rockwell International Limited, Rockwell CVC Marketing & Sales, St Martins House, 1 Hammersmith Grove, London W6 0NX.



Rockwell International

...where science gets down to business

JOIN US FOR LUNCH

On Wednesday 20th April, from 12 noon, we will be holding an informal lunch for secretaries currently seeking temporary or permanent employment. If you are a secretarial professional, please join us to offer our advice and professional experience. R.S.V.P. 225 7252

FLUENT IN FRENCH

Totally assist the M.D. of this large West London based transport company. Tasks at all levels both internationally and throughout the U.K. Time people lobby to be a secretary call Dawn Dawson on 891 8725.

COMMUNITIES P.A.

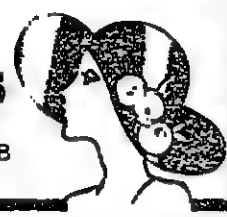
If you enjoy the world of dealing with the Stock Market then you will fit into the fabulous Community dealing in Commodities. You will have with all aspects, keep records, arrange meetings and organise your own administration. To give a truly one-to-one nature in this position. Extremely friendly people in smart offices near Green Park. If you have an interest in this field, please call Jane Williams on 491 8723 for further details.

SECURE YOUR FUTURE

As part of the secretarial admin. back up you will assist the deputy M.D. and his marketing team within this large security firm. You will be involved in the marketing and launch of new products, co-ordinating the W.P. data, organising functions and more. You will need complete secretarial skills and a good track record. Minimum age 25. Please phone Vanessa Sullivan on 491 8725.

Secretarial Appointments

A Division of Graduate Appointments
7 Princes Street, London W1R 7RB
Tel: 01-629 7262



NON COMMERCIAL TO £7,800

Our client a well known Academic Body seeks a PA/Secretary. This is a true PA opportunity for you to use your initiative, handle your own correspondence, set up meetings and meet visitors. 100/50 skills needed and an outgoing personality.

MARKET RESEARCH TO £8,000

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1

6.00 Cee-fax AM. News headlines, weather, sport and traffic details.

6.30 Breakfast Time presented by Frank Bough and Selma Scott. News at 6.30, 7.00, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00 with headlines on the quarter hours; regional news at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15, keep fit between 7.15 and 7.30; tonight's television previewed between 7.15 and 7.30; morning papers reviewed at 7.32 and 8.32; agony column between 8.30 and 8.45; cookery hints between 8.45 and 9.00. Closedown at 9.00.

12.30 News Afternoon with Richard Whitmore and Ian Stanger. The weather details come from Jack Scott. 12.57 Regional News (London and SE only). Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles. 1.00 Pebble Mill at One. Mike Smith continues with his cookery series, Grace and Flavour; there is news of the Sealtin round Britain cycle race; and the entertainer, Topol, is interviewed. 1.45 The Flump. 2.00 Cartoon Double Bill. Two MGM classics - Art Gallery and Tale of the Vienna Woods (r).

2.15 Racing from Cheltenham features a challenge match between jockeys from England and Ireland. They compete in the Courage Directors Handicap Hurdle (3.05); and the Happy Easter Handicap Hurdle (3.40). 3.53 Regional News (North London).

3.55 Play School. Shown earlier on BBC2. 4.20 The All New Poppy Show. Three cartoons starring the indestructible old cat, 4.45 Cheesecake. Pop. The first of a new series of games and pop music presented by Keith Chegwin. 5.05 Newsround. The latest world news for young people presented by Paul McDowell. 5.10 The Story of the Treasure Seekers. Episode three of the six-part adventure based on the novel by E Nesbit (r).

5.40 News with Maria Stuart. 6.00 South East at Six.

6.25 Nationwide presented by Sue Lawley and Richard Kershaw. The programme includes the second film in John Hitchens' examination of Our National Health.

7.15 Wildlife on One: Flower from the Flames. David Attenborough examines the profuse family of flowers - the national emblem of South Africa (r).

7.40 Open All Hours. Arkwright punishes an old admirer of nurse Gladys Emmanuel comes back into her life.

8.10 Dallas. Should Pamela help Bobby with his fight for Evie and possibly lose him for good or not help him and lose him to Katherine? Decisions, decisions.

9.00 News with John Humphrys. 9.25 G.E.D.: A Guide to Ampeggdon. A repeat of Ludovic Kennedy's documentary that speculates on the effects of nuclear weapons.

9.55 Sportnight introduced by Harry Carpenter. Coverage of the closing frames of the World Snooker Championship match between Jimmy White and Doug Mountjoy plus World Championship ice hockey from Dortmund.

11.18 News headlines. 11.20 Cannon. The obese private detective is on the trail of a man accused of atrocities during World War II.

12.10 Weather.

TV-am

6.00 Daybreak with Gavin Scott followed at 6.30 by Good Morning Britain presented by Linda Berry and Nick Owen. News at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00 with city news at 6.15; Meryl Stevenson of The Economist reviews the morning papers at 6.33 and 8.33; Miriam Karlin in the celebrity guest at 8.20. Closedown at 9.15.

ITV/LONDON

9.30 Sesame Street. Learning made fun with the Muppets 10.30 Science International, narrated by Michael Bentine 10.55 The Weather Builders. Alastair Northedge examines the designs of the Inca (r) 11.00 Wild, Wild World of Animals. The world of wild dogs 11.30 Film Fun. More cartoons from the Roxy Cinema presented by Derek Griffiths (r).

12.00 Rod, Jane and Freddy sing a song about characters on a Chinese Willow pattern plate 12.10 Rainbow. Learning with puppets 12.30 Play It Again. Tony Blower's guest is actor Alan Armstrong who talks about his career and selects clips from his favourite films.

1.00 News 1.20 Thames news with Robin Houston 1.30 Crown Court Continuing the case of the journalist accused of withholding information from the security forces (r) 2.00 A Play presented by Trevor Hyatt. Key Aida's a report on the dangers in the water we drink.

2.30 Racing from Epsom. Live coverage of the Warren Stakes (2.35); The City and Suburban Handicap (3.10); and the Great Surrey Handicap (3.40).

4.00 Rod, Jane and Freddy. A repeat of the programme shown at noon 4.15 Dangerous. Is it true to know what the Baron Greenback is doing at Buckingham Palace in episode three of The Planet of the Cats 4.20 The Booty Show with Matthew Corbett 4.30 Cartoon Theatre. Porky's Phoney Express 4.45 What's Happening. A new quiz series for young people about the week's News 5.15 Mr and Mrs.

5.45 News 5.00 Thames news 5.25 Help Community news presented by Nancy Robertson.

6.35 Newsround. Penny Banks thinks of a way to stop the affair between her father and Sharon Metcalfe.

7.00 Where There's a Life. A new series presented by Drs Miriam Stoppard and Rob Buckman with the accent on health.

7.30 Coronation Street. Chalkie Whitely is ready to move in to the home of widow Kirby.

8.00 Carry On Laughing. Extracts from some of the funniest moments from the Carry On series of films.

8.30 Only When I Laugh. The reply to a letter sent to an agony aunt from one of the patients in Ward 3 causes a certain amount of confusion (r).

9.00 Widows. The final episode and with the last safely packed away will Dolly and Shirley be able to get the customs officers in Rio de Janeiro?

10.00 News. 10.30 Midweek Sports Special. Exclusive coverage of the heavyweight contest between Joe Bugner and the American, Danny Santos. Greg Gutteridge is the commentator at the Alexandra Pavilion.

11.30 Mamma. The private detective is hired to find the son of an old friend.

12.25 Close with Michael Hordern.

BBC 2

6.05 Open University. Infant cognition 6.30 Perception: Cues and Schemes 6.55 Physics: Which Way to Turn? 7.20 Argument on Television: 7.45 Industrial Relations. Closedown at 8.10.

10.20 Gharber. A magazine programme of interest to Asian women. Today a member of the West Midlands police force, WPC Bhargava, talks to Lalita Ahmed and Anita Nag Wilcox about how women can protect themselves from physical attacks. 10.45 Closeown. 11.00 Play School. 11.25 Closedown.

1.00 World Snooker. Live coverage of the fifth day of the Embassy World Professional Championship, introduced by David Vine from the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield. There is further coverage on this channel at 8.40 (Frame of the Day) and 11.30. The tournament is also covered by Sportsnight on BBC1 at 9.55.

5.10 The Action of Lysosomes. An Open University programme in which Professor Sir David Phillips explores the structure of lysosomes, a powerful enzyme used by the body to destroy bacteria (r).

5.40 World Snooker. The latest news from Sheffield plus Frame of the Day.

7.25 News summary with subtitles. 7.30 Ebony. A magazine programme for Britain's black communities. Victoria Herbert talks to Sam Spry, a London Transport bus driver who came to Britain from Barbados in 1960 and is now mayor of Hackney. Wayne Layne reports on the weekend conference at which white social workers discussed racial attitudes; and there is roller hockey from Nottingham.

8.00 Raphael. The final programme in the series celebrating the 50th anniversary of the artist's birth. David Thompson visits some of the places that have connections with Raphael's influence.

9.00 One Night in Lincoln. Mike Harding with another fund of anecdotes, tonight on the subject of Ladies' Man.

9.30 Shackleton. Episodes two and three. At his base at Cape Royds, receives a setback in his plans to reach the South Pole when he loses several of his ponies during the winter.

10.30 Newsnight. 11.20 World Snooker. Further coverage of the fifth day in the Embassy World Professional Championship, introduced by David Vine from the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield.

12.10 Open University. Topology: The Projective Plane 12.35 Systems Organization 1.00 Crusel and Mantle Processes. Ends at 1.30.

CHANNEL 4

5.00 Chipsa Comic has a day out at Islington's City Farm. 5.30 Countdown. Another edition of the words and numbers game. Richard Whiteley is the presenter, assisted by Kenneth Williams with his book of definitions.

6.00 The Munsters. Herman believes he is being groomed for film stardom but the film man is a fraudster who plans to use Herman in a series of 'accidents' in order to trick an insurance company into paying with money. Starring Fritz Farnham and Yvonne de Carlo.

6.30 Staging an Opera. The second in the series of six programmes analysing the work that goes on behind the scenes in preparing an opera season. The opera is Kant Opera's version of Beethoven's Fidelio, under the production of Jonathan Miller. This week the programme concentrates on the role of the conductor, Roger Norrington, through the three-week rehearsal period. He is seen working alongside Miller and with the singers and orchestra as they prepare for the opening night. The narrator is Anthony Hopkins.

7.00 Channel Four News. 7.50 Comment. On the political soap-box this evening is Labour Member of Parliament Gerald Kaufman.

8.00 Brookside. Heather Huntington is becoming overwhelmed by the pressures of her exams while Paul is losing patience with what seems like the hundreds of people who want to organize her life.

8.30 Twenty Twenty Vision: The Dumping Controversy. An examination of the political and moral issues raised by Britain's refusal to recognize the two-year moratorium on nuclear waste dumping signed by Britain and 51 other countries. Despite international pressure this country plans to continue dumping nuclear waste which, it is estimated, causes 90% of the radioactivity in the Atlantic. Taking part in the programme are Dr John Lewis of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, a Greenpeace representative and Jim Staley of the National Union of Seamen.

9.00 Film Pumping Iron (1976). A documentary about the people in the world of body building. Directed by George Butler and Robert Fiore.

10.40 Voices: Farewell to the Working Class. Robert Hutchison is in the chair for a debate in which French social critic Andre Gorz argues that commitment to socialism by the working class and full employment should be abandoned.

11.45 Closedown.

CHOICE

Lewis Wolpert, professor of Biology as Applied to Medicine at London's Middlesex Hospital and other distinguished scientists. HOW SCIENCE WORKS (Radio 3 7.00pm) is aimed at discovering more about how scientists actually do science and why they do it. Professor Wolpert's first quest is Christopher Zeeman, professor of Mathematics at the University of Warwick, who talks about 'the queen of the sciences' - pure mathematics, a subject to some outsiders, might be as remote and as inviting as the South Pole. Professor Zeeman, bravely explains how he derives his pleasure and satisfaction from working on a problem that might take six years to solve and even then may have no immediate bearing in today's world.

It is, as professor Zeeman explains, just like any other job with 90 per cent hard work, the rest inspiration. Joe O'Donnell's first play for radio is THE GIANTIC BOAR (Radio 4 3.00pm) an hilarious romp set in the 18th century. Two Irishmen, Doolley and Drogen, played by Jim Norton and Sean Barrett, are on the run from the British forces following the battle of Eniscorthy, when they encounter an extremely large wild boar. With the help of a wily Scots entrepreneur, Donald Macivor (Henry Stampel) they bring the animal to London and the Court of George IV. From there it is exhibited to the public at the Tower of London a fortune seems to be awaiting the trio. But then an unkind rumour begins to circulate about how the beast became so large and from there the eager lion tames start to change for the worse.

Radio 4

6.00 News Briefing. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.25 Shipping Forecast. 6.30 Today. Including 6.45 Prayer for the Day. 6.55, 7.55 Weather. 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 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The Queen smiles in acknowledgement of the cheers of her guards after inspecting the Queen's Company of the First Battalion of the Grenadier Guards at Windsor Castle

Reagan agrees silo bases for 100 MX missiles

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

President Reagan yesterday publicly endorsed a proposal for the deployment of 100 MX intercontinental ballistic missiles in existing Minuteman silos, pending the development of a new small, single warhead missile. The recommendation was made last week by the President's bipartisan commission on strategic forces headed by retired General Brent Scowcroft.

Addressing members of Congress at the White House he said the commission's recommendations, which also included stepped-up research and development into ways of hardening silos, would "preserve stable deterrence and this protect the peace".

He said they would also add "solid incentives and credibility to our efforts to negotiate arms reductions that can pave the way to a more secure and peaceful future".

Both houses of Congress now have 45 days in which to approve the new basing mode for the MX. Their approval is needed to release \$600m (£382m) in engineering funds that have been blocked since last December when Congress rejected an earlier plan to deploy 100 of the missiles in

"dense pack" formation at an air force base in Wyoming. The 11-member commission, which included six former defence secretaries, was set up by Mr Reagan after his rejection to work out a politically acceptable way of deploying the MX in testimony before a Senate committee on Monday. General Scowcroft admitted that his panel's recommendations were shaped as much by political considerations as military requirements.

Although considerable opposition is expected from Congress to the new MX proposal, there seems an improved chance that it will be passed. Immediately after the President's endorsement Mr James Wright, the House Majority Leader, said he would support the new plan. "It's not ideal," he said, "but I think it's probably the best we can hope for".

He said the House of Representatives had agreed to give early consideration to the commission's recommendations. They would be looked at on their own merits and not as part of the overall debate on defence spending. In his statement yesterday Mr Reagan pledged his determination to "work relentlessly to achieve nuclear stability at the lowest possible levels". Absent from his remarks was the strong anti-Soviet rhetoric which has characterized some of his recent statements on arms control.

However, he emphasized the need for the United States to modernize its land-based missile systems to induce the Soviet Union to negotiate seriously on arms reductions. Mr Reagan's "star wars" proposal for an anti-ballistic missile system in outer space is not defensive, but a step towards strengthening the United States first strike capability. 244 Soviet scientists have claimed in an appeal addressed to "all scientists of the world", Nicholas Timmins writes.

The statement, released by the Novosti press agency, urges all scientists to work towards nuclear disarmament, when our future lies "on the scales of history", and claims the new system is "oriented towards a clear destabilization of the existing balance".

British cash 'to update US mills'

Continued from page 1

A union spokesman said yesterday that it was not yet prepared to comment specifically on Mr Roderick's testimony other than to underscore its intention to oppose the joint venture if a deal is signed.

"We are not prepared to lose American jobs to subsidized low-cost steel from abroad which is produced by a government-owned company," the spokesman warned.

Union officials fear that if the British Steel venture is allowed to go through, then other American companies will pursue similar ventures with European and Asian producers which would result in the loss of thousands of domestic jobs.

Search off

Singapore (Reuters) - An air and sea search for a West German-owned yacht was suspended nine days after the crew radioed that the vessel had been ditched and set adrift in the Spratly Islands, South China Sea. Prospects for finding any survivors among the six people on board were regarded as dim. Four were amateur radio enthusiasts planning transmissions.

TV-am dismisses Ford and Rippon

Continued from page 1

It is no secret that the company is in financial trouble. Last week two backers wrote off their financial investments in the firm.

David Frost has also been dropped from presenting the show after the audiences fell to about 400,000 during weekdays and is now doing interviews. Miss Rippon, before her dismissal, had also been moved in favour of the relatively unknown Lynda Berry.

An executive at TV-am, who asked not to be named, said

yesterday that "paranoia was stalking the corridors. I think everybody is a bit afraid. Very few people have been able to give their best through lack of confidence".

He added that after the power struggle between Mr Michael Deakin, the programme controller, which ended in Mr Jay's dismissal last month, it was "difficult to see how Anna and Angela could survive after their comments to the press."

Mr Frost's quote about "the sexual chemistry" right "seems to have exploded", the executive said. "There was no sexual chemistry and there was a feeling they were not the two best presenters in the world - a bit grumpy really".

It was also claimed by some TV-am employees that the company was trying to cut costs by removing the very highly-paid presenters.

A number of employees believed that the power of the presenters was too great and that they were responsible for the poor ratings which compared disastrously with BBC's *Breakfast Time* show. The presenters were criticized for talking over running time and ruining carefully-prepared programme schedules, the executive said.

Angela Rippon: Left the studios without talking.

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Frank Johnson in the Commons

Thatcher stricken with election fever

Mrs Thatcher had an attack of election fever in the Commons yesterday, the mystery disease which has had massive publicity for weeks and which can cause the premature death of entire governments.

Last night she was undergoing treatment from Dr William Whitelaw and Dr Francis Pym, two top physicians who have devoted their lives to combating the killer virus after the terrible outbreak of February, 1974. And a warning went out to members of the public who live on the Conservative backbenches to avoid contact with at least three men believed to be the "carriers" of the disease.

One Mr Norman Tebbit, who is understood to be connected with a bicycle business. Another is Mr Cecil Parkinson, a well-dressed, fair-haired former accountant from the Home Counties who is said to be a transmitter of the virus's lethal "Conservative Central Office" strain. The third is Sir Geoffrey Howe, a Chancellor of the Exchequer from Surrey East about whom nothing is known.

Mr Thatcher was taken ill after about five minutes of a routine Prime Minister's question time. Until then, she had been bullying Mr Michael Foot about nuclear war and raving at a harmless Labour backbencher who had accused her of causing unemployment in the West Midlands. She therefore appeared to be behaving normally.

Then Mr Foot asked her whether she had been correctly reported at the weekend when, according to Mr Foot, she had claimed that she would be the first Prime Minister to go to the country with a lower inflation rate than she had inherited.

Unmistakable symptoms

He protested that her reported claim could not be true because Mrs Thatcher had inherited from the last Labour government a lower inflation rate than the one she left to Labour as a member of Mr Edward Heath's government.

The Prime Minister began her reply by saying: "Assuming that the forecasts of inflation are reasonable, and

even if they go up a bit in the coming months..."

At this, she was interrupted by Mr Denis Healey, a retired 1930s Oxford Marxist who was sitting on a bench opposite her. This man was heard to shout something like: "Cut and run".

It was then that Mrs Thatcher had her seizure. "Ooooh," she cried, gesturing towards Mr Healey. "The right hon gentleman is afraid of an election, is he? He is frightened... frightened..."

Above a great deal of noise, she had repeated the word as if in a trance. The symptoms were unmistakable. Those older Tory backbenchers who had been out East, and had experience of tropical diseases, were in no doubt. It was the dreaded election fever. Panic gripped both sides of the House.

Heartbreak of Heath

It looked as if Mrs Thatcher had been stricken by a form of virus known as *Peepholes' Tummy*, since she appeared to have taken an overdose of opinion polls. Mr Heath was sitting only a few feet away from her, but was unable to come to her aid.

He contracted the fever in the winter of 1974. As a result, he called an election in the unseasonable month of February. It ruined his life. Now he lives in a twilight world below the gangway, emerging during debates on the Third World to tell his heartbreak story.

With considerable courage, Mrs Thatcher managed to pull herself together and resume haranguing Mr Foot and Mr Healey about inflation as if it were a day like any other. Mr Foot said he and his party were happy to have an early election.

This enabled everybody to start laughing as if nothing had happened. Life returned to normal. Mrs Thatcher left the chamber shortly afterwards as if she were quite well. These periods of normality are quite common in this illness. They tell us nothing about the patient's chances of recovery.

Mrs Thatcher's condition last night remained serious. The Queen has asked to be kept informed.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements
Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother opens a Luncheon Club and Day Centre for the West Indian elderly in Raiton Road, Brixton, 3. Princess Margaret visits the factory of Bryant and May, Garston, Merseyside, 11.45; and for the 80th anniversary of the National Art Collections Fund she attends a concert at the Barbican, 6.45. The Duke of Gloucester opens

the new civic offices, Woking, Surrey, 2.30. Princess Michael of Kent presents Sony Radio Award trophies at the Hilton International Hotel, 12.30.

New exhibitions
Ceramics, wallhangings, paintings and prints by Alastair Dunn, Frances Nevay and Peter Howson, MacLaurin Art Gallery, Roselle Park, Ayr, Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (from today until May 11). Paintings by prisoners, Tumbidge Wells Art Gallery, Civic Centre, Mount Pleasant, Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30 (from today until May 4).

Watercolours by Michael Whitelaw, and porcelain by Julian Stair, Katharine House Gallery, The Parade, Marlborough, Wed to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 11 to 4 (until May 27).

Exhibitions in progress
A mansion of many chambers: Special purchases and loans, Southampton Art Gallery, Civic Centre, Tues to Sat 11 to 5.45, Sun 2 to 5 (until May 1). How we used to live 1935-53: Museum and Art Gallery, Chequer Road, Doncaster, Mon to Thurs 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until June 10). Giacomini's lithographs, and work of Walsall Photographic Society, Walsall Museum and Art Gallery, Lichfield Street, Mon to Fri 10 to 6, Sat 10 to 4.45 (until April 30).

Art and the Land, Rockdale Art Gallery, The Esplanade, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 5 (until May 1). Sculptures by Anthony Caro, National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 5 (until May 5). Twentieth century people: Portrait drawings and prints, Glynn Vivian Art Gallery and Museum, Aberystwyth Road, Swansea, Mon to Sat 10.30 to 5 (until May 11). Sports Photographer of the Year, RPS National Centre of Photography, The Octagon, Milton Street, Bath, Mon to Sat 10 to 4.45 (until May 3).

A distant prospect: Aerial photography from the past 125 years, Impressions Gallery of Photography, 17 Colindale Avenue, London, Tues to Sat 10 to 6 (until May 7). Modern Turkish paintings from the collection of Is Bankasi, City Art Centre, 2 Market Street, E. disborough, Mon to Sat 10 to 5 (until May 14). Ceramics by Anne Vallarde, MacLaurin Art Gallery, Roselle Park, Ayr, Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until May 11).

Last chance to see
Broadsheet (1967-78): Poetry, prose and graphics, and illuminations by Alan Bold; National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, 9.30 to 5 (ends today). Talks, lectures
Silk: Worth its weight in gold, by J. Calder, Royal Scottish Museum, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, 2.

The Cozens and Girin sketchbooks, by Francis W. Hawcroft, Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester University, 1.

Organ recital by Kevin Duggan, Christ Church, Julian Road, Bath, 7.30.

Concert by Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Colston Hall, Bristol, 7.30.

Concert by Bournemouth Youth Choir, The Rowans, College Street, Leicester, 7.

Recital by Peadar Kirby, St David's Hall, Cardiff, 7.30.

Music at the Court of Elizabeth I, with Roger Glass (countertenor), Strathclyde Renaissance Band and University Chamber Choir, Strathclyde University 22 Richmond Street, Glasgow, 7.30.

Auction of Georgian, Victorian and other furniture, and art works, Baines, Rainbow, Torquay, 10.

New books - hardback

The Library Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:
A Handbook of Roman Art, edited by Martin Henig (Phaidon, £15).
Constantine, The Painter and his Landscape, by Michael Rosenthal (Yale, £15.95).
Irish Journal, a Traveller's Portrait of Ireland, by Heinrich Boll (Secker & Warburg, £7.95).

Myth and Thought Among the Greeks, by Jean-Pierre Vernant (Routledge & Kegan Paul, £14.95).
Salvador, by Joan Didion (Corgi & Windus, £6.95).
Secrets of the Face, by Lillian Young (Hodder & Stoughton, £6.95).

The Cambridge Guide to English Literature, by Michael Stapleton (Cambridge, £15).
The Miracle of Dunkirk, by Walter Lord (Allen Lane, £8.95).

The Norman Heritage, 1088-1200, by Trevor Rowley, and The Georgian Triumph, 1700-1830, by Michael Reed, new series "The Making of Britain" (Routledge & Kegan Paul, £9.95 and £12.50).
The Squandered Peace, the World 1945-1978, by John Valzey (Hodder & Stoughton, £14.95).

Airbus service

London Transport will add a third route to its Airbus services between central London and Heathrow Airport, beginning on Saturday. The new route A3 will run daily during the morning and early afternoon, linking Euston and main hotel areas with all three terminals at Heathrow.

Airbus route A2 (Paddington to Heathrow) will revert to its former more direct route via Holland Park Avenue, because Kensington High Street will be served by route A3. A3 will stop at Hammar Lane (Clarendon Hotel), Kensington High Street, Park Lane (Hilton Hotel), Marble Arch and Russell Square. Buses will leave Heathrow (Terminal 3) at 7.30 am and hourly until 2.30 pm. Return journeys from Euston Bus Station will begin at 8 am and run hourly until 3 pm. Fares on all three Airbus routes will be £2.50 single.

Anniversaries

Births: Adolf Hitler, Braunau am Inn, Austria, 1889; Harold Lloyd, film actor, Burchard, Nebraska, 1893.
Deaths: Casaleto, Venice, 1768; Braus Stoker, theatrical manager and author (*Dracula*), London, 1912; Samuel Rutherford Crockett, novelist, Avignon, France, 1914.

The pound

| | Bank | Bank |
|-----------------|---------|---------|
| Australia \$ | 1.87 | 1.87 |
| Belgium Fr | 28.25 | 28.25 |
| Denmark Kr | 79.00 | 79.00 |
| France F | 1.99 | 1.99 |
| Germany DM | 1.36 | 1.36 |
| Greece Dr | 138.00 | 138.00 |
| Ireland Pt | 1.25 | 1.25 |
| Italy Lira | 2330.00 | 2330.00 |
| Japan Yen | 350.00 | 350.00 |
| Netherlands Gld | 1.46 | 1.46 |
| Norway Kr | 11.00 | 11.00 |
| Portugal Esc | 165.00 | 165.00 |
| Spain Ptas | 165.00 | 165.00 |
| Sweden Kr | 12.16 | 12.16 |
| Switzerland Fr | 3.34 | 3.34 |
| USA \$ | 1.61 | 1.61 |
| Yugoslavia Dnr | 132.00 | 132.00 |

Retail Price Index: 327.3.
London: The FT Index closed down 9.8 at 685.2.

Roads

London and South-east: A2: Roadworks all day at several places on Old Kent Road, Southwark. M1: Two lanes southbound approaching junction 7 (M10 turn-off). M4: One lane only westbound at junction 11 (Reading). A3: Roadworks both ways at Millford. Wales and West: A37: Temporary signals at Pensford, Bristol to Midsummer Norton. M5: Lane closures both ways between junctions 10 (Cheltenham) and 12 (Gloucester). A483: Traffic lights at places between Lindford Wells and Newbury.

Wales and West: A54: Lane closures both ways on Telford bypass. A6: Temporary signals at Darley Dale, Dove Holes and Belper. A6: Temporary lights on Preston Road, Whittle-le-Woods, A1/A6136: Lane closed on Caterick bypass. M6: Lane closures until October between junctions 25 (A49 Wigan) and 27 (A5209 Wigan/Stanley).

Sea and carriage-way closures on North Road Bridge: diversion for loads more than 9ft 6in. A91: Single-lane traffic near Auchtermuchty. M8: Outside lanes closed both ways carriageways east of junction 30 (Paisley). Information supplied by the A.A.

The papers

The women's revolt of the past 20 years against men who would consign them to an inferior rank has been natural and right, the Daily Mirror says. "But like all revolutions it has excesses which cannot be defended".

For five years Mr Michael Foot was a member of a Labour Cabinet that was committed to nuclear weapons. The Sun says. Now he "produces his miserable apology for peace at any price".

The Washington Post said yesterday that the bombing at the American embassy in Beirut would almost certainly fail in intimidating the United States.

Only when Israel's, Syria's and the PLO's forces are removed can "Lebanon be expected to rise by degrees, with American and other international help, to the challenge of imposing domestic order".

Parliament today
Commons (2.30): Social Security and Housing Benefits Bill, committee and remaining stages.
Lords (2.30): Debate on energy resources.

Weather

A slack pattern of low pressure will persist over Britain. The main centre of low pressure will be near NE Scotland moving slowly N.

6 am to midnight

London, East Angles, SE England, E Midlands: Fog patches clearing, sunny intervals, showers later, some heavy; wind variable, light; max 8 to 10C (46 to 50F). Central, SW England, SW England, S Wales: Showers, wintry on hills, heavy at times, some sunny intervals; wind variable, light or moderate; max 8 to 10C (46 to 50F). E Central N and NE England, W Midlands: Sunny periods but scattered showers, wind mainly N, fresh or strong; max 4 to 5C (39 to 41F). Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: Continuing unsettled and rather cold with night frost and fog in places.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Straights of Dover: Wind SW, fresh, becoming light; Sea moderate, becoming smooth. English Channel (E): Wind variable, becoming E, light or moderate; Sea slight. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind N becoming variable, light or moderate; Sea slight.

Sun rises: 5.56 am
Sun sets: 8.05 pm
Moon sets: 11.16 pm
First quarter: 8.58 am

Lighting-up time
London 8.55 pm to 8.54 am
Bristol 8.44 pm to 8.43 am
Edinburgh 8.58 pm to 8.57 am
Manchester 8.48 pm to 8.47 am
Newcastle 8.53 pm to 8.52 am

Yesterday
Temperatures at midday yesterday:

| | C | F | C | F |
|---------------|------|------|------|------|
| Belfast | 10.4 | 50.7 | 10.4 | 50.7 |
| Birmingham | 10.4 | 50.7 | 10.4 | 50.7 |
| Bristol | 10.4 | 50.7 | 10.4 | 50.7 |
| Cardiff | 10.4 | 50.7 | 10.4 | 50.7 |
| Edinburgh | 10.4 | 50.7 | 10.4 | 50.7 |
| Exeter | 10.4 | 50.7 | 10.4 | 50.7 |
| Gloucester | 10.4 | 50.7 | 10.4 | 50.7 |
| London | 10.4 | 50.7 | 10.4 | 50.7 |
| Manchester | 10.4 | 50.7 | 10.4 | 50.7 |
| Newcastle | 10.4 | 50.7 | 10.4 | 50.7 |
| Nottingham | 10.4 | 50.7 | 10.4 | 50.7 |
| Sheffield | 10.4 | 50.7 | 10.4 | 50.7 |
| Southampton | 10.4 | 50.7 | 10.4 | 50.7 |
| Stirling | 10.4 | 50.7 | 10.4 | 50.7 |
| Torquay | 10.4 | 50.7 | 10.4 | 50.7 |
| Wolverhampton | 10.4 | 50.7 | 10.4 | 50.7 |
| Wrexham | 10.4 | 50.7 | 10.4 | 50.7 |

Highest and lowest
Highest day temp: Jersey, 11C (52F); lowest day temp: St John's, 4C (39F); highest night temp: St John's, 0.3C (32.5F); lowest night temp: St John's, -1.1C (30.0F).

London
Yesterday's temp: max 7 am to 7 pm, 9C (46F); min 7 pm to 7 am, 4C (39F); humidity 7 pm, 70 per cent; rain 20 to 7 pm, 0.7in. Sun: 5.56 to 8.05 pm, 0.1in; Bar, mean sea level, 7 pm, 1005.6 millibars, rising.

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MOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. Fronts: warm, cold, occluded. Symbols as on previous pages.

High tides
London Bridge 7.17 AM HT 7.17 PM HT 7.17 AM HT 7.17 PM HT

| | AM | HT | PM | HT |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Aberdeen | 7.17 | 7.17 | 7.17 | 7.17 |
| Aberystwyth | 12.26 | 10.17 | 10.17 | 10.17 |
| Belfast | 4.52 | 3.28 | 3.28 | 3.28 |
| Birmingham | 12.09 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Bristol | 4.54 | 3.34 | 3.34 | 3.34 |
| Cardiff | 10.58 | 4.21 | 11.29 | 4.48 |
| Cheltenham | 8.03 | 3.48 | 3.48 | 3.48 |
| Chesham | 3.28 | 3.38 | 3.38 | 3.38 |
| Chichester | 3.58 | 4.49 | 4.49 | 4.49 |
| Colchester | 11.55 | 7.2 | 7.2 | 7.2 |
| Consett | 3.58 | 3.48 | 3.48 | 3.48 |
| Exeter | 4.48 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| Gloucester | 3.18 | 2.28 | 2.28 | 2.28 |
| Harrogate | 3.18 | 2.28 | 2.28 | 2.28 |
| Heathrow | 4.57 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 |
| High Wycombe | 11.55 | 7.2 | 7.2 | 7.2 |
| Leeds | 3.58 | 3.48 | 3.48 | 3.48 |
| Leicester | 4.48 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| London | 7.17 | 7.17 | 7.17 | 7.17 |
| Lowestoft | 3.18 | 2.28 | 2.28 | 2.28 |
| Manchester | 4.57 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 |
| Marlow | 11.55 | 7.2 | 7.2 | 7.2 |
| Medway | 10.42 | 4.11 | 4.11 | 4.11 |
| Nottingham | 11.55 | 7.2 | 7.2 | 7.2 |
| Oldham | 4.48 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| Portsmouth | 5.05 | 3.58 | 3.58 | 3.58 |
| Reading | 4.41 | 3.28 | 3.28 | 3.28 |
| Sheffield | 4.57 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 |
| Southampton | 4.57 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 |
| Stirling | 9.44 | 4.00 | 4.00 | |